

International delegates welcomed at ACU for Catholic education conference

Some of the world’s most respected and impactful Catholic educators have descended on Canberra for a two-day conference on the role of schools as “centres of evangelisation”.

The International Catholic Schools Conference is being hosted by ACU Canberra and Catholic Education Canberra Goulburn in partnership with ACU La Salle Academy and Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International (CSYMI). More than 70 international delegates from Oceania, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and East Africa, have arrived at Signadou Campus for the conference.

Being held over the next two days, the conference will explore to possibility of Catholic schools as places and spaces where staff and students encounter and experience the Catholic faith through contemporary evangelisation strategies. The conference will specifically focus on staff and leader formation, and student formation for peer-to-peer ministry.

Campus Dean of ACU’s Canberra Campus Associate Professor Darius von Guttner said he was delighted to welcome the international and national delegates to conference this week.

“We are honoured to host such a diverse assembly of educational leaders, principals, teachers, church leaders, and representatives from numerous countries and dioceses,” Professor von Guttner said.

“The presence of our esteemed guests underscores the global commitment to faith formation in education and reflects our shared mission.

“We are particularly excited about the opportunity this conference provides for enriching our collective journey of faith. Our goal is to foster a community where the quest for knowledge is harmonised with the pursuit of virtue, creating an environment that nurtures both mind and soul.”

A Current of Grace will feature a range of national and international speakers, with keynotes and break-out sessions designed to address critical themes of staff and student formation. Highlights will include reflections on Pentecost giving birth to the first moments of evangelisation and understanding the role of charisms in evangelising.

Associate Professor von Guttner expressed his gratitude to the organisers and key contributors, including Br David Hall, Dean of La Salle Academy for Faith Formation and Religious Education at ACU, and Peter Woods, Director of Teacher Faith Formation Programs. He also acknowledged the vital support and guidance Archbishop Christopher Prowse of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

“We are grateful for the collaborative efforts that have made this conference possible,” Associate Professor von Guttner said. “It exemplifies the spirit of synodality, bringing together various stakeholders to work towards a common goal.

“As the delegates convene over the next two days, we look forward to fruitful deliberations and a transformative experience for all participants.”

Photos from the International Catholic Schools Conference available on request.

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