



FAMILYWORKS

*Newsletter of the Australian Catholic Marriage & Family Council
Number 1/2011*



Share the Dream echoes the call of the late Pope John Paul II to families – “become what you are” – the communities of life and love which make the presence of God real to every neighbour you meet.

3 days celebrating the life, love and challenge of family life. For full details see Conference Web site:

The program includes expert speakers from around the world and 36 workshops from which to choose, including:

- *Sexual Sense in a World of Senseless Sex*
- *Teen Pregnancy & Challenging Choices*
- *The Home & Education in Sexual Dignity*
- *Love, Truth & Same Sex Attraction*
- *Problem with Pornography - What Parents Must Know*
- *Interfaith Marriages*
- *Family & Caring for the Aged*
- *To Give and to Receive – Migrant Families & Church*
- *Art, Evangelisation & the Christian Family*
- *The Life of Love & Disability*
- *Faith & Light - Families & Disability*
- *7 Secrets to Success as a Father*
- *Responding to Cyber Bullying – A Guide for Parents*
- *Seasons - A Parish Responses to Separation & Divorce*
- *Family Ministries in the Parish – Making it Happen!*
- *Challenges of Family Ministry in Rural Australia*

Programs for adults, youth and children.

Venue: Xavier College in Kew.

Dates: Friday 15th – Sunday 17th April 2011.

Share Your Dream of Family - Register On-Line Now: <https://www.sharethedream.org.au/register/index.php>

Marriage & Family Awards - Call for Nominations

Pope John Paul II frequently urged Christian families to live their true vocation as “the centre and heart of the civilization of love”. The Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council (ACMFC) wishes to celebrate the quiet work of the many thousands of people around the country who live this vocation, freely offering their services to support marriage and families. Catholic bodies, including parishes, religious orders, lay movements and organisations are encouraged to nominate individuals, couples or whole families whose work or life is a witness of love in their community.

Nomination Form and Guidelines on last two pages of FAMILY WORKS.

Every day is St. Valentine’s Day

The Australian Bishops Committee for Marriage and Family released a ‘St Valentine’s Day’ kit to encourage parishes and couples to celebrate true married love. Feb 14th has come and gone, but the romance of true love is not circumscribed by the calendar. See how you can deepen your mutual love and commitment.

[St Valentine's Day Kit 2011](#)

The Christian Family – Subject of Evangelisation

In Nov 2010, six delegates from the Australian Bishops Council for Marriage & Family attended the International Congress on 'The Christian Family – Subject of Evangelisation'. Key issues arising from the Congress included the value of:

- Development of marriage and family ministry at parish level to activate marriage and family formation.
- Mentoring by married couples for marriage preparation & for newly married couples.
- Parish-based approach at all levels of marriage formation.
- Re-establishment of Retrouvaille in Australia (Movement for Separated & Divorced)
- The need for those working in youth ministry and in adolescent education to develop their understanding of their role in marriage preparation.
- Continuing to seek ways of embracing those who feel distanced from the Church community, especially those in irregular situations.
- The need to optimize evangelization of parents through Catholic schools.
- Recognising and supporting marriage and family Movements and Associations.

Caroline Chisholm

Caroline Chisholm, wife and mother of six, was one of Australia's great pioneers, and her memory has been perpetuated in many civic institutions. However, many do not know that her work was motivated by her faith in God and belief that God had chosen her for the task of assisting immigrants to Australia. [mrschisholm.com](http://www.mrschisholm.com) is a website that seeks to increase knowledge and appreciation of the life and work of Caroline Chisholm – of her heroic virtue, in short – and thereby to help in promoting the commencement and advancement of a Cause for her beatification in the Catholic Church. The website includes a brief biography of Caroline Chisholm and other resources.

<http://www.mrschisholm.com>

"Best practice" guide on evangelisation through the family – a request to readers

The Australian Catholic Marriage & Family Council is continuing to develop a database of suggestions for evangelisation at parish level. Please let us know of your experience. The possibilities are endless, e.g. hospitality initiatives, reaching out to alienated families, recognising special needs, renewal of marriage vows, family bushwalks, mentoring young couples, etc.

Why not jot your idea down right now and email to familyworks@catholic.org.au.

CathFamily – A Treasure Trove of Family Resources

[CathFamily](http://www.cathfamily.org) - a web site of the Parish and Marriage Resource Centre, Sydney dedicated to assisting families make the home the living heart of the church. This site provides innovative and contemporary resources relating to both traditional and contemporary rituals that Catholic families can adapt into their own family rituals. The site encourages you to use these resources (all free!) to help find ways to make your home a living 'domestic church'.

www.cathfamily.org

Catholic Marriage Education

CSME promotes marriage and family life in accordance with the beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church by encouraging marriage and relationship education for couples considering marriage and for married couples. The major activities of the society include:

- The National Conference for Marriage and Relationship Educators
- Threshold - A journal for marriage and relationship educators and workers
- FOCCUS - Provisions for FOCCUS pre-marriage inventories.

<http://www.csme.catholic.org.au/>

Seventh World Meeting of Families - Milan May 2012

Pope Benedict has announced that the 7th World Meeting of Families is to be held in the Italian city of Milan from 29th May to 3rd June 2012, on the theme: "The Family: Work and Rest". Pope Benedict noted that: "work and rest are intimately associated with the life of families. They influence the choices the family makes, the relationship between the spouses and among parents and children, and they affect the dealings the family has with society and with the Church". At a time when work hours pressure is unprecedented in Australia, this meeting offers an opportunity to seek the balance between economy and family life.

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/family/index.htm



Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council presents the

2011 Marriage and Family Awards

The Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council invite nominations for the 2011 Marriage and Family Awards. The Awards will be presented at *Share the Dream*, the 3rd National Catholic Families Gathering in April.

The purpose of these awards is to recognise the valued contribution that many people make to promoting, encouraging, supporting or living out marriage and family life.

Parishes, dioceses, marriage and family movements and groups, family support agencies and similar organisations and groups are invited to nominate a person, couple or family.

The 2011 Awards will be presented on Saturday, April 16, 2011 during the National Families Gathering, *Share the Dream*, at Xavier College, Kew, Victoria.

As part of the ceremony, each Award recipient will be presented with a special certificate to acknowledge his or her or their contribution to supporting marriage and family in Australia.

If you know of any person, couple or family that should be considered for an award, please complete and return the nomination form.

NOMINATION FORM OVERLEAF

PLEASE NOTE: NOMINATIONS CLOSE ON FRIDAY, 1 APRIL 2010



Marriage and Family Awards

PLEASE FORWARD THE COMPLETED NOMINATION FORM TO:
Marriage and Family Awards, PO Box 449, Heidelberg 3084
(by Friday, 1 April 2011)

Please Note: Parishes, Dioceses, Movements or Organisations may nominate only one person, couple or family per organisation or group

I hereby nominate: [Please print]

Title(s): Mr, Ms, Mrs, Miss, Dr etc

First Name(s):

Family Name (Surname):

Address:.....

Telephone:..... Email:

Please provide a summary of contributions/activities undertaken to support marriage and family (approx 100 words):

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NOMINATOR'S DETAILS:

Name & Title:.....

Organisation :

Address:.....

Telephone No: Mobile..... Email:

Relationship to Nominee: (e.g. associate, colleague)

Signature: Date:.....

Please note: All nominations remain the property of the ACMFC.
No correspondence will be entered into.

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