

New Director of John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family

The Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart, today announced the appointment of Dr Warwick Neville as the new Director of the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family.

Dr Neville takes up the prestigious position after 12 years as Research Fellow at the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Canberra.

The selection panel that recommended his appointment was chaired by Professor Peter Tannock, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Notre Dame, Perth, and formerly Chair of the National Catholic Education Commission. The appointment has been approved by the Roman Session of the Institute.

The Institute, based in Melbourne, is part of an international post-graduate enterprise for studies in relation to marriage, family, sexuality and bioethics with campuses in Mexico, Spain, India, Brazil, Africa, and the United States with the central session of the Institute based at the Lateran University in Rome. Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, now an auxiliary Bishop in Sydney, was the founding Director of the Institute.

Dr Neville, married with four children, originally hails from Sydney where he had a distinguished career in the law before commencing graduate studies in theology in Washington DC followed by a doctorate in moral and biblical theology from the Pontifical University of St Thomas, Rome.

He has been with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference since 1992. He has written submissions on a wide range of topics, including euthanasia, IVF, sex discrimination, surrogacy, religious liberty, and appeared before numerous Senate and other governmental committees, both State and Commonwealth, in relation to these and other matters. During his time in Canberra, Dr Neville has also been responsible for the conduct of prominent litigation in the High Court concerning abortion and the rights of children born pursuant to IVF.

Dr Neville has been a faculty and board member of the Institute since its doors were officially opened in July 2002 by Cardinal Trujillo, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family. The Institute was unanimously endorsed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference pursuant to a resolution in 1999. The Conference also formally petitioned Pope John Paul II for the establishment of the Institute in Australia. The Australian session of the Institute serves the South East Asia and Oceania regions. Currently there are more than 170 students at the Institute.

Archbishop Hart expressed his delight at Dr Neville's appointment.

"I extend a warm welcome to Dr Warwick Neville, who brings wide experience and love of the Church to his new appointment at the John Paul II institute," he said. " He will bring significant gifts to the Institute and to the Archdiocese. I am delighted."

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President, Archbishop Francis Carroll, conveyed his warmest congratulations to Dr Neville on his new appointment.

"Dr Neville has been a long-standing and much-valued member of the Bishops' Conference secretariat. His unique blend of qualifications and gifts and his utter commitment to the service of the Church have marked his contribution to the Conference and to individual Bishops," Archbishop Carroll said.

"I feel sure Dr Neville's service to the Church will continue to flourish in his new role at the John Paul II Institute and I wish him every success in this important endeavour."

For more information contact Dr Neville on 02 6201 9862 or visit www.jp2institute.org.