Great partnership for Vatican II conference

Australian Catholic University (ACU) will be a major partner with the Archdiocese of Sydney for one of the most significant religious gatherings for intellectual and faith formation to be held in Australia.

An initiative of the Archdiocese of Sydney, The Great Grace: Receiving Vatican II Today will take place in Sydney on 20-23 May this year and will explore and celebrate the ongoing relevance of Vatican II.

ACU is encouraging students from across its six campuses in NSW, Victoria and Queensland to attend. The University will award study credits to students who participate in the Conference.

Vice-Chancellor of ACU Professor Greg Craven said supporting such an important religious event as The Great Grace was key to the University’s identity as a Catholic institution of higher learning.

“Being part of the Church is not simply about sharing beliefs and values, it is also about demonstrating publicly our support of key events in the life of the Church.

“In the case of a major Conference such as The Great Grace, ACU takes its responsibilities very seriously because as this is not only a celebration or recollection of the Second Vatican Council, it is a contribution to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition in which the University proudly stands and participates,” Professor Craven said.

Bishop Peter Comensoli, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Sydney and one of the Conference’s key organisers, said “the Archdiocese is delighted ACU will be our partner and major sponsor of the Conference and is very grateful for the University’s generosity and support.”

The Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal George Pell, who is currently in Rome, also said he was extremely pleased about the partnership. He said The Great Grace: Receiving Vatican II Today would provide wonderful opportunities for learning and for students the chance to earn university credits towards their diploma or degree.

The Great Grace Conference will bring together some of the great minds of the contemporary Church from Australia and internationally to consider the impact and legacy of the Council, especially its role in shaping the theology and Church practices.

Two of the nine keynote speakers who will address the Conference are also professors at ACU.

Professor Anthony Kelly CSSR, is a Redemptorist priest, prolific author on Christian life and Professor of Theology at ACU. Professor Anne Hunt is a Doctor of Theology and has written on Vatican II and its vision on the role of the laity in the Church. She is Executive Dean of ACU’s Faculty of Theology and Philosophy.
Other outstanding speakers include the widely acknowledged Papal contender, Cardinal Marc Ouellet from Quebec, Canada.

The four day conference will feature important addresses by leading theologians and experts on Vatican II, and at least 20 intensive workshops.

More than 650 men and women from universities, parishes, communities and cities across Australia and Oceania will attend with many more able to participate via podcasts and live streaming.

A book containing the addresses by the keynote speakers on Vatican II is planned for release later in the year.


Note: Early bid discounted registration closes 15 March 2013.

**For further information**

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