



*The  
Renaissance  
of Marriage  
2008*

National Catholic Lay Leadership & Formation Conference

*Dear Friends,*

*It is with pleasure that we welcome you to 'The Renaissance of Marriage 2008'.*

*Renaissance means 'rebirth' or 'revival' and we truly believe that we are on the threshold of a rebirth of marriage in our society. While readily facing the reality of the challenges confronting contemporary marriage, we gather to celebrate the confidence we have that this can be changed and that this change has begun.*

*As Catholic lay leadership, individually we each make a priceless contribution to the mission of the Church. We hope that your experience at this conference will both enrich you and amplify the impact of your work in building a positive marriage culture.*

*May you be inspired, enriched, enlivened!*

*May you be energised to go forth with renewed determination and optimism in living the greatest love story of all time... the story of our redemption in Christ - lover and bridegroom of the Church.*

*Enjoy!*

*Byron & Francine Pirola*  
Conference Convenors

## Friday

### *A Renaissance of Marriage*

- 7:30 pm **Gathering & Registration**
- 8:00 **Welcome & Prayer** - The Divine Romance *Michael & Tricia Casey, John & Anne Keogh*
- Keynotes:**
- ☛ Marriage: An Irreplaceable Contribution to Society *Kevin & Margaret Andrews (MP, Marriage Ed Inc)*
  - ☛ A Renaissance of Marriage *Byron & Francine Pirola (PMRC)*
  - ☛ Initiatives from around the world *BF Pirola, Edmund Adamus*
- Reflection:** The Power of Love *Dan & Cate Kensey, Gonzaga & Paskazia Lubega, Anne-Maree & Steve Parsons, Jane & Jonathan Deegan*
- 9:50 **Supper & Close**

## Saturday

### *The Challenges of Marriage*

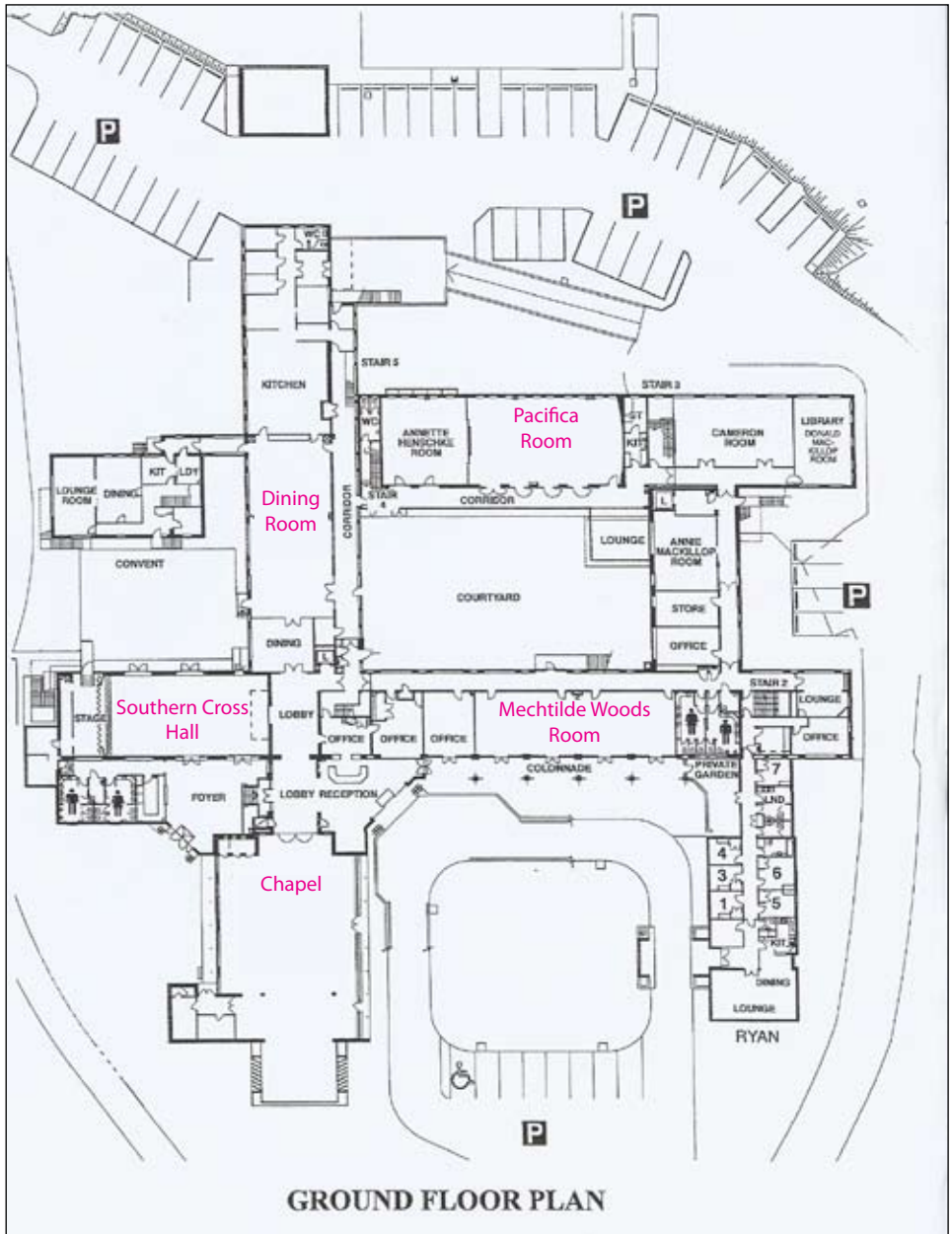
- 8:30am **Welcome & Prayer** *Luke & Vanessa Van Beek with Perth couples*
- 9:00 **Single Sex Workshops:**
- ☛ Woman in Relationship *Mechtilde Woods Rm - Tricia Casey & Anne-Maree O'Brien*
  - ☛ Man in Relationship: Reflections on Male Spirituality *Southern Cross Hall - Michael Casey*
- 12:30pm Lunch
- 1:30 **Keynotes:**
- ☛ Gender Collide *Byron & Francine Pirola (PMRC)*
  - ☛ Divorce & the Catholic Church *Fr Gerry Gleeson (CIS)*
  - ☛ Fertility: Trends, Treatments & Catholic Teaching *Nicole Parker (Fertility Care, UK)*
  - ☛ Pornography: Facts Fallacy & Cyber Infidelity *Jonathan & Karen Doyle (Choicez Media)*
  - ☛ Pathways to Recovery: Sexual Addiction *James Parker (Living Waters, Harvesters, UK)*
- 3:30 **Workshops:**
- A1) Pastoral Care of the Divorced and Remarried *Pacifica Room - G Gleeson*
  - B) Couple Spirituality *Mehtilde Woods Room - B F Pirola*
  - C) Giving Young People an Education in Love *Southern Cross Hall - J K Doyle*
- 4:40 Break
- 5:30 **Mass** : 2nd Sunday in Lent *Chapel - Fr Vincent Casey*
- 6:30 Pre-dinner drinks & Dinner *Courtyard, Dining Room*
- 10:00 **Close**

## Sunday

### *Mission and Empowerment*

- 8.30am **Welcome & Prayer** *Ray and Ree O'Brien with NSW couples*
- 9:00 **Keynote:** African Challenges *Gonzaga & Paskazia Lubega*
- 9:30 **Workshops:**
- A2) Fertility & Infertility *Pacifica Room - N Parker*
  - B) Couple Spirituality *Mehtilde Woods Room - B F Pirola*
  - C) Giving Young People an Education in Love *Southern Cross Hall - J K Doyle*
- 11:00 **Keynotes:**
- ☛ Lay Empowerment *Ron & Mavis Pirola (PCF)*
  - ☛ Theology of the Body: Insights for Marriage *Edmund Adamus (Dioc of Westminster)*
  - ☛ Connecting with Youth *Br Damien Price (Edmund Rice Camps)*
  - ☛ Marriage Prep: The Church's Last Stand? *Byron and Francine Pirola (PMRC)*
- 1:00pm **Close**

# Map of St Joseph's



# The Divine Romance

From the most ancient of times,  
our Hebrew ancestors in faith recognised  
that the beauty of creation revealed the magnificence of God.  
The One who created them, was the One who loved them.  
The One who hung the stars in the skies,  
was the One who placed the sparkle in their eyes.  
The miracle of our human be-ing reveals the gift of Divine Loving.  
To love another person is to see the face of God.

*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished,  
and all their multitude.*

*And on the seventh day  
God finished the work that he had done,  
and he rested on the seventh day  
from all the work that he had done.*

*So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it,  
because on it God rested from all the work  
that he had done in creation.*

(Gen 2:1-3)

## Prayer

**Loving God,  
Creator and Lover of all creation,  
Open our eyes to the beauty of your world,  
and to the wonder of your people.  
May we never be too busy or too distracted to revel in your gifts  
and to stand with holy awe before the power of your love.  
May we be fertile ground  
for the seed of your Word to be sown and grow to fullness of life.  
Bless our weekend...  
Bless each person here,  
our relationships,  
our families,  
our communities,  
our loved ones.  
O Lord, may we never be afraid to grow.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ and in his Spirit.**

**Amen.**

*With grateful thanks to Teresa Pirola*

*Edmund Adamus* with his wife, Catherine have been married for two years and are expecting their first child. He is the Director of Pastoral Affairs in the Diocese of Westminster, UK. He has worked extensively with couples and is a regular lecturer on the Theology of the Body. The John Paul II Institute in Rome under the Lateran University Press have recently published his paper, "The Stages of life and the 'Communion of Persons': A Challenge for Morality" as a response to the Institute's VIIth Colloquium on Moral Theology 2006.



*Kevin & Margaret Andrews* have five children and reside in Melbourne where they have had a long involvement in marriage education. Margaret has been the covenor of the Marriage Education Programme Inc., Melbourne, since 1986 and is long-time editor of the marriage education magazine "Threshold". Prior to entering Federal Parliament in 1991, Kevin was a practising barrister. In 1998 he led a Parliamentary Enquiry that resulted in the publication of "To Have and to Hold: Strategies to Strengthen Marriage and Relationships".

*Michael and Tricia Casey* have been married for 26 years and have three young adult children. They have been actively involved in Celebrate Love for over ten years as facilitators and on the National Leadership team. Michael is a GP and Senior Lecturer in Medicine at Notre Dame University. Tricia is a counsellor and consultant working in leadership development.



*Fr Vincent Casey* is a priest of twenty five years in the Broken Bay diocese where he is parish priest of Chatswood and Vicar General for the diocese. He is formerly the human formation director for St Patrick's and Good Shepherd Seminaries, having studied psychology at the Gregorian University in Rome. He has been a chaplain on Celebrate Love seminars for more than 15 years. He has been involved in numerous lay initiatives including Antioch, Engaged Encounter, The Story Source and Barnabas.

*Jonathan & Karen Doyle* have been married for eight years and have one child. They are the founders and Directors of Choicez Media, an innovative initiative which seeks to equip young people with information and resources to help them make great choices in life. Jonathan has a Masters in leadership and Karen is a registered nurse and served on the Executive of the Australian Council of Natural Family Planning. They are both currently studying at the John Paul II Institute. They reside in Canberra, Australia.





*Fr Gerry Gleeson* is a Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Sydney where he is parish priest of St Robert's Summer Hill and an Associate Professor at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, teaching philosophy and ethics. He is a member of the Australian Health Ethics Committee. He is the author of numerous articles and had a major role in the drafting of the recent publication of "Divorce and the Catholic Church: Frequently Asked Questions", published by the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life.



*Gonzaga & Paskazia Lubega* have three biological children, five adopted teenagers and reside in Masaka, Uganda. They are members of the Holy Trinity Community and are natural family planning instructors. Gonzaga is a trained counsellor and Paskazia a registered nurse. They work full-time (self-supported) in marriage ministry. They travelled to Australia in 2007 to undertake training in Celebrate Love and Embrace and are currently training other couples in Masaka to run the programmes.



*Ray & Ree O'Brien* have been married for 28 years, have three children and reside in Raymond Terrace NSW, Australia. They are members of the National Leadership Team for Celebrate Love in Australia, having participated as presenters and facilitators of the CL seminar for the past 8 years. They have been actively involved in the leadership of various lay ministries at both diocesan and parish level, including pastoral planning, Embrace, Luke 18 and Cursillo.



*James and Nicole Parker* have been married for just over a year and reside in London, UK. James has vast experience in working with men and is a founding member of Harvesters, a Catholic Men's movement. He has also lead Living Waters retreats for people with sexual addictions. Nicole is the founder and director of the London Fertility Care Centre where she works extensively with couples experiencing fertility difficulties and those seeking natural fertility management.



*Byron & Francine Pirola* have five children and reside in Sydney, Australia. They are the coauthors and Australian national directors of Celebrate Love and Embrace. Byron is the former president of the Australian Council of Natural Family Planning and Francine is a natural fertility instructor. They currently serve on the Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council. Byron is a director of the consulting firm Port Jackson Partners and a director of several private and public companies. He has a PhD in biochemistry. Francine holds a MA in Religion and Religious Education and is a University Medalist in Physiology.



*Ron & Mavis Pirola* have four children, eight grandchildren and reside in Sydney, Australia. They have been members of the Pontifical Council of the Family since its foundation in 1981. They introduced Worldwide Marriage Encounter into Australia and are National Directors of PMRC and the Antioch Youth Movement. They chair the Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council and are Adjunct Lecturers in Marriage Education at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family. Mavis has a background in secondary school teaching and Ron is an Associate Professor of Medicine (UNSW) and a Consultant Gastroenterologist.

*Br Damien Price* is a Christian Brother of the Oceanic Province. He has just completed six years as Dean of Mission at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace. Damien has worked in post school formation and as a counsellor as well as a teacher in schools. He is a member of the Brisbane Archdiocese Youth Commission and has also been associated with the Antioch movement since 1983. He is currently researching the effect working with homeless people has on young peoples' sense of self.



*Luke & Vanessa Van Beek* have been married for twelve years and have two small children. They have been involved in pre-marriage education programs in the Perth Archdiocese for the past 10 years, presenting with Catholic Marriage Education Services and also Catholic Engaged Encounter. Luke & Vanessa have been actively involved in Celebrate Love for 3 years and are currently on the National Leadership Team. Luke works as a Group Human Resources Manager in Oil and Gas Construction. Vanessa works part time as a Sales Director with Telstra. Their spare time is taken up in parish and community activities.

## A1) Pastoral Care of the Divorced & Remarried

**Fr Gerry Gleeson - Pacifica Room (Saturday only)**

This workshop will explore the Church's teachings and the pastoral care of those affected by divorce, including the remarried and their children. It will discuss how we can compassionately respond to the unique challenges presented to us by the divorce culture.

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## A2) Fertility & Infertility

**Nicole Parker - Pacifica Room (Sunday only)**

Using case studies and real life stories, Nicole will relate what fertility options are available to Catholic couples and discuss the pastoral care of this important ministry. She will also share her experience of speaking to Engaged couples on the topic of natural fertility methods.

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## B) Couple Spirituality

**Byron & Francine Pirola - Mechtilde Woods Room**

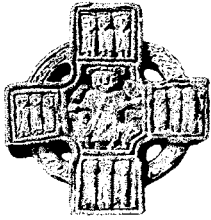
Drawing extensively on the insights of the Theology of the Body, Byron & Francine will explore contemporary insights into developing an authentic couple spirituality - a unique expression and experience of Love within the sacrament of Matrimony.

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## C) Giving Young People an Education in Love

**Karen & Jonathan Doyle - Southern Cross Hall**

Building on their vast experience in Australian schools, Jonathan and Karen will explore the particular challenges of working with youth on the topic of sexuality. Beginning with young children and working towards adolescents and young adults, they will share their insights and offer suggestions on how we can be an effective witness of love.



The Pastoral  
&  
Matrimonial Centre

*"...so that they may be one  
as we are one."  
Jn 17:22*

The PMRC was founded in 1978 by Fr Charles Gallagher S.J. and introduced to Australia in 1979. Its purpose is to provide resources for parish-based evangelisation with a particular emphasis on drawing on the charisms of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

*With Special Thanks to the  
Renaissance 08 Team*

Michael & Tricia Casey

Liz & John Fenech

Anne-Maree & Bernie Higgins

Cate & Dan Kensey

Byron & Francine Pirola

Emma & Nick Scarf

## *Celebrate Love*

### **For Married Couples**

A two day seminar for couples exploring marital intimacy and spirituality. An effective marriage enrichment course for couples preparing for parish-based relationship ministry.

[www.CelebrateLove.com.au](http://www.CelebrateLove.com.au)

## *Embrace: Preparing to Live in Love*

### **For Engaged Couples**

A positive, proactive, marriage preparation programme designed to provide engaged couples with liberating insights and effective skills for living in joyful, sacramental marriages. Facilitated by a trained Mentor couple in their home to one engaged couple at a time, the programme is an adaptation of Celebrate Love for the pre-married context. The course consists of six two-hour sessions and includes contemporary DVD presentation and course notes.

[www.Embrace.org.au](http://www.Embrace.org.au)

## *Antioch*

### **For Youth**

Antioch is a parish-based ministry of youth to youth (aged 16-22), bridging the school and post-school years. Beginning with a weekend experience, this programme has a strong weekly follow-up. All talks and input are provided by the youth with the guidance of adults. Antioch offers an ongoing opportunity to for Catholic youth to be formed in their faith and to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. [www.Antioch.com.au](http://www.Antioch.com.au)

## *Living Well Media*

### **For Catholic Families**

Living Well Media focuses on the production and distribution of digital (CD audio and DVD) materials with a particular emphasis on contemporary Catholic teaching on sexuality, marriage and relationships. The Theology of the Body is a strong feature in the product range and includes talks given by well known speaker, Christopher West. [www.LivingWellMedia.com.au](http://www.LivingWellMedia.com.au)