

## MEDIA RELEASE

4 December 2018

*For immediate release*

### Mission conference the perfect prelude to an extraordinary month

Registrations are open for the biennial 'Mission: one heart many voices' conference to be held in May next year, in what some are saying is the ideal opening to October's Extraordinary Missionary Month.

The fourth instalment of one of Australia's premier conferences on mission will take place at the SMC Conference and Function Centre in Sydney from May 13-15, five months before the Extraordinary Missionary Month, declared by Pope Francis in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's apostolic letter *Maximum Ilud*.

'The intention behind Pope Francis' call for an Extraordinary Missionary Month is to nurture a spirit of missionary transformation in each of us personally as well the Church's life and pastoral activity,' said Peter Gates, Deputy National Director of Catholic Mission, which organises the conference jointly with Catholic Religious Australia. 'This conference is a critical opportunity for participants to prepare for this extraordinary time.'

[Dr Carol Zinn SSJ](#), Executive Director of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, will headline the conference, sharing her unique insight on education, business and international NGOs.

She will be joined by the Pontifical Council for Culture [Bishop Paul Tighe](#), [Ravina Waldren](#), and [Robert Fitzgerald AM](#), among a host of other presenters and workshop facilitators.

'The quality and diversity of the international and local speakers is extraordinary to have at one gathering,' said Mr Gates. 'When you add to that the breadth and depth of experience and wisdom that the participants bring, then the conference cannot but be a special experience for all.'

Over 450 delegates are expected at the conference, which will include a strong creative arts element, interactive workshops and masterclasses, and a focus on radical inclusion, encounter and dialogue.

'It is an environment designed to offer inspiration and energy for living the joy of the Gospel and leading mission coupled with practical learning and experience that enables improved quality of work and ministry,' said Mr Gates.

Mr Gates says the conference will come at a critical time in the journey towards Plenary Council 2020. 'The President of the Plenary Council, [Archbishop Timothy Costelloe](#), and [Lana Turvey-Collins](#), the Lead Facilitator, will share about the emerging themes from submissions to the Plenary Council and from the nationwide Listening and Dialogue Encounters,' he said.

**For more information or to register, visit [mohmv.com.au](http://mohmv.com.au) or call 1800 257 296.**