

**MONTHLY MEMO**  
**April 2024**

Beginning the writing of this month’s *Monthly Memo* on a bright blue Sunday morning, remembering again with gratitude how beautiful the autumn skies are in our neck of the woods. We’ve had a busy few weeks and we have a few more coming up before a slower June.

This past week saw the first of our events for 2024, held at the Treacy Centre in Melbourne. A mix of service partners and their staff, intending service partners, interested others, Member Representatives and Board Directors and EFCL Operations staff were in attendance. I will write about this event and the Sydney event in the May *Monthly Memo* in detail after the May event and when I have the evaluation forms to consult, but I’ll lead with a couple of photos and a few comments about Melbourne.



Elizabeth Dowling rsm, Linda Ferrington rsc, participants, Bernadette Fitzgerald lcm

Liz Dowling’s formation session reflecting on the role of prophets and prophecy was much appreciated. Some comments about the days from participants: “I am just sending you a note to say that our days in Melbourne were really good. The networking is very enriching. I felt there was a good spirit in the group”; “Thank you to the EFCL Team for the most valuable

two days...I found them so rich. It is so good being able to listen to other women and men religious and their co-workers. I learnt a lot and hope to learn more as I/we journey into the future." No doubt there will be many more points to ponder once we collate the evaluation responses.

Registration for the Sydney event has closed online, but if you missed registering and would like to attend, please email Nitasha [nitasha.prasad@efcl.org.au](mailto:nitasha.prasad@efcl.org.au) and she may be able to squeeze you in!

EFCL has also planned a day on May 15 to meet with our current service partner leaders and leadership teams to discuss learnings from the journey and to allow them time to interact with each other about issues they have encountered. Nearly all of the leaders/leadership teams of our current service partners are attending, but again, if you missed registering, reach out to Nitasha [nitasha.prasad@efcl.org.au](mailto:nitasha.prasad@efcl.org.au)

The Operations Team (Transition and Shared Services) met for a day on April 8 to continue our practice of constantly monitoring and reviewing our ministry with religious institutes. We did some final planning for the April-May events; worked on aspects of the Canonical Delegate Network that is in development; continued discussion of the issue of next of kin and related topics after consultation with two religious institutes; shared updates in our work with service partners and considered some issues arising with regard to staff managed by EFCL and caring for sisters or brothers in institutes where the governance has not yet transitioned to a canonical delegate. As always, we bring to our meetings all that we hear when working with our service partners and we are constantly learning and improving our processes and considering how to share the initiatives that come from our service partners.

Last Friday Linda Ferrington and I were interviewed by Fiona Basile for an article to be published in the *Global Sisters Report*, a project of the American *National Catholic Reporter*. "This year celebrates *Global Sisters Report's* 10 years of daily reporting about and by women religious. Over this decade, we have met women religious of all ages from around the world, representing various congregations, involved in the ministries of education, health care and social services, as well as a host of other expressions of their commitment to the Gospel". The intent of the article is to share on a wider level the mission and ministry of Emerging Futures because we have been fortunate to develop a system that fits our Australian religious landscape and culture and is increasingly being seen as adaptable to the other countries of the Global North. We have in the past spoken at various webinars in America and for the Resource Center for Religious Institutes, but this was our first interview for the written word. We'll let you know when it's being published!

On Thursday **May 2 at 2pm** Emerging Futures has a Zoom webinar for our service partners with Simon Davies, principal of [Safeguarding Services](#) and EFCL's Professional Standards and Safeguarding provider. Simon is going to address the required response to the recent letter from ACSL regarding the *Safeguarding Notification Data Collection Project*. If you missed the email about the session and wish to join please email me and I will send you a Zoom invitation.

I'm concluding with a line from Liz Dowling's presentation in Melbourne: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, ... plans for your welfare and not for harm, **to give you a future with hope.**"

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Transition Manager  
29 April 2024