

MONTHLY MEMO February 2024

Welcome to the February 2024 edition of the *Monthly Memo*! It seems that I was just wishing you all the blessings of the Christmas season and now we are into the Lenten season. A reminder that all of our *Monthly Memo* editions can be found on our website <https://www.emergingfuturescollaborative.org.au> under the News and Events page. In November's *Monthly Memo* I referred you to the website via a link <https://www.emergingfuturescollaborative.org.au/videos> to view the recording of the November national Zoom: that is still there (the fifth video down) if you haven't had a chance to see it yet. Put **Wednesday November 6** in your diary for this year's national Zoom.

You do not have to wait till November however, to engage with Emerging Futures! We have some exciting events on offer earlier in the year:

1. **April 22-23:** Two-day gathering in Melbourne;
2. **May 13-14:** Two-day gathering in Sydney;
3. **September 10:** A day with **Mary Pellegrino csj** from USA in Sydney.

The April and May days follow on from the one day events we held last year, when we had requests to make these two-day events with a dinner on the first night. Thus a two day event with a dinner -trying it out for 2024! Some of the highlights of the two days

- An opening session in both locations with Elizabeth Dowling rsm, the theologian who has been assisting Emerging Futures deepen our understanding of our mission and ministry since the very early days;
- A panel discussion about our work with the Dicastery in Rome, and the EFCL model with the roles of the community coordinator, the canonical delegate and consultors
- A session for Emerging Futures staff working religious institutes
- An afternoon of breakout sessions where you get to choose three topics to explore further with people engaged in the EFCL process
- And so much more!

We expect that the staff of Emerging Futures will be joined by Member Representatives of the eight religious institutes who are the company members of EFCL, directors from the Board, our service partners and their staff. We invite religious and their lay colleagues interested in exploring the opportunities of Emerging Futures to join us for these two days. A full invitation is attached to this *Monthly Memo*.

Register for the Melbourne Event:

<https://events.humanitix.com/2024efclnetworkevent-melbourne>

Register for the Sydney Event:

<https://events.humanitix.com/2024efclnetworkevent-sydney>

If you experience any difficulty in registering please email nitasha.prasad@efcl.org.au

The Transition Team took annual leave over December-January, so we were back to meetings from January 22. Six weeks in we are working with our service partners to clarify the transition milestones for 2024 and get back into gear after a few weeks away. We expect that a number of service partners will be petitioning the Dicastery in Rome for a canonical delegate this year.

Our work with the Canonical Delegate Network is continuing this year with our first meeting coming up on March 4. EFCL is working with a group of religious to create a network of those interested in the roles of Canonical Delegate and Consultor, seeking to address and explore all the issues about these roles. The roles are high-level and hands off in the EFCL model, but like all roles, we are discovering particular aspects as the roles are taken up and go live. This was one of the aspects of EFCL work in which the Dicastery staff expressed most interest when Anne Lane pbvm and Mary-Clare Holland op met with them in September last year. We have just written to the Dicastery requesting a meeting in September this year to continue our discussions. On March 4 we will be looking at our continuing exploration of the role of the canonical delegate, policies, remuneration, terms of reference for the Network, developing a Memorandum of Understanding for use between the two religious institutes -the one supplying the canonical delegate and the one receiving the canonical delegate.

Emerging Futures continues to connect with our international network of religious individuals and organizations that, like us, are coming to new understandings of what it means for a religious institute to come to completion. I'd like to recommend some of the readings from the latest edition of the LCWR *Occasional Papers* which can be bought as a digital version delivered into your email box from <https://www.lcwr.org/resources/publications/occasional-papers/occasional-papers-winter-2024> If you have any trouble accessing a copy please contact me.

This edition entitled *Our Work is Loving the World* explores *a question heard frequently among women religious today as our demographics shift is: "What does mission mean for us today especially when fewer of us are engaged in ministry?"*

The question is an important one. We live in a time when vast numbers of sisters are in a stage of life where they desire to live the mission that has drawn them for decades, but they no longer have a tangible ministry through which they express that mission. So many sense that the mission is indeed still alive within them but are unsure what that means in their daily living. - LCWR

It seems to us that this question of the meaning of mission today is such an important one, whether we are in the Emerging Futures process or not -it is a question for all religious institutes. *Occasional Papers* has a number of responses to the question what does mission mean today that will be a rich source of reflection.

As we move into the Lenten season, we wish for you time to ponder the invitation to turn ourselves back to God, to engage in a healing process of prayer. Let us welcome Lent as a season of grace, in which our hearts can be softened.

Sharon Price rsm
Transition Manager
26 February 2024

INVITATION TO EMERGING FUTURE EVENTS IN APRIL AND MAY

We invite anyone interested to attend one of our scheduled events this year.

1. **Melbourne: Monday 22 – Tuesday 23 April 2024** at the Treacy Centre - 126 The Avenue, Parkville.
Monday 22 April: 10.00am-4.30pm followed by drinks and dinner from 5.00pm
Tuesday 23 April: 9.30am-3.30pm.
Registration cost: \$220.00; Dinner cost \$60.00. Attendance at the dinner is optional.
[This is a two-day event and participants are required to register for both days.](#)
There is no accommodation available at Treacy Centre, so participants need to source accommodation elsewhere.

REGISTER FOR THE MELBOURNE EVENT:

<https://events.humanitix.com/2024efclnetworkevent-melbourne>

2. **Sydney: Monday 13 – Tuesday 14 May 2024** at Mary Mackillop Place - 80 William Street, North Sydney.
Monday 13 May: 10.00am-4.30pm followed by drinks and dinner from 5.00pm
Tuesday 14 May: 9.30am-3.30pm.
Registration cost: \$220.00; Dinner cost \$60.00. Attendance at the dinner is optional.
[This is a two-day event and participants are required to register for both days.](#)
Accommodation is available at MMP at \$147.00 per night: book directly with Anderlady Lodge on [\(02\) 8912 4800](tel:0289124800).

REGISTER FOR THE SYDNEY EVENT:

<https://events.humanitix.com/2024efclnetworkevent-sydney>

If you experience any difficulty in registering please email nitasha.prasad@efcl.org.au

[Offering a dinner on the first night was a suggestion from the participants last year who thought it would provide a great space to meet and talk informally.](#)

These events offer the opportunity for individuals interested in the work EFCL does, to meet together and do what was intended in the development of EFCL:

- Experience communion
- Collaboration
- Inter-connectedness
- Share experiences and learnings
- Receive formation and find support.

These events are of particular interest to:

- Any religious interested in learning more about EFCL especially from the viewpoint of religious and staff already involved
- Members of the leadership team of current service partners
- Members of Religious Institutes considering joining EFCL (future service partners)

- Canonical delegate and consultants teams
- All staff managed or employed by EFCL, including religious in the role of Community Coordinator.

Elizabeth Dowling rsm, theologian, will present a session during the morning of the first day at both locations.

There will also be sessions:

- on the various aspects of EFCL
- led by current service partners and staff that give more insight into what it is like to be involved with EFCL
- to learn more from various leaders/ leadership team members and staff (breakout interactive sessions).

Registration closes at 3.00pm (AEST):

1. Monday 25 March 2024 for the Melbourne Event
2. Monday 22 April 2024 for the Sydney Event

We suggest you register as soon as practicable as numbers are held at 100 in both venues.

After registration, you will be offered the opportunity to register for the scheduled breakout sessions on Day Two.