

# VATICAN II - *An Event of Grace*

## National eConference - Speaker Biographies

### Most Rev Michael Putney DD



The Most Rev Michael Putney DD was born and educated in Queensland. He was ordained to priesthood in 1969 and appointed as the fifth Bishop of Townsville in 2001. Bishop Putney has a doctorate from the Gregorian, and has taught there as well as Banyo Seminary and the University of Queensland. One of the Catholic Church's leading scholars of ecumenism, he was elected the sixth President of the National Council of Churches (NCCA) in 2009. He has had an extensive ministry in the Catholic Church, including Co-Chair of the International Methodist/Roman Catholic Dialogue, member of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, member of the Permanent Committee of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, current Chairperson of the Bishops Commission Mission and Faith Formation, and Patron of the World Community for Christian Meditation.

### Sr Maryanne Confoy RSC



Sr Maryanne Confoy RSC has completed a BArts in Melbourne; post graduate studies at Boston College and Harvard Graduate School of Education; and a PhD in Theology and Education from Boston College. Sr Maryanne is a Professor of Practical Theology at the Jesuit Theological College and is a past President of the United Faculty of Theology in Melbourne. A visiting Professor at the Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry at Boston College, USA, Sr Maryanne has been very influential in furthering the study of spirituality in Australia and abroad. Sr Maryanne's publications include articles on spirituality and ministry, a biography on Morris West; books on spirituality and the contemplative life, priesthood, religious life and Christian ministry.

### Jill Gowdie



Jill currently leads Evangelisation and Spiritual Formation at Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane, having developed a framework and system wide strategic approach to spiritual formation for leaders and teachers. Her expertise is grounded in long and wide experience in schools, with professional qualifications across the disciplines of liturgy, religious education, journalism, theology and spirituality with PhD studies in educational leadership. She received a national award for excellence in research in 2008. As well as presenting for a variety of audiences and contexts, Jill is known for her writing and facilitation work. Her particular passion is around the transformative influence of leadership in the Catholic school context and the critical place of spiritual formation in that dynamic. Jill is married to Geoff and they have four children.

### Paul Power



Paul Power has been Chief Executive Officer of the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA), since 2006. Paul leads the organisation's policy development and public education on refugee issues and its advocacy with the Australian Government, international networks and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Since 2008, he has served as a member of the Australian Government's Refugee Resettlement Advisory Council. Prior to joining RCOA, Paul worked in the NGO sector as a media officer, trainer, researcher and manager, after a 12-year career in the newspaper industry as a journalist and editor. Through his HGO work, Paul has been involved with projects in international aid, community development, mental health support, volunteer training, social research and advocacy.