

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

How to use these videos

This video series was developed to provide a stimulus for discussion about women's leadership.

These discussions could take place in a variety of situations, including:

- In parish or diocesan settings: young women's groups, mother's groups etc.
- Gatherings of groups or movements.
- Catholic agencies.

Ideally, discussions are best conducted in small groups, where there is plenty of opportunity for women to pray, share and reflect.



Outline and aim

The series contains five videos with female leaders from a variety of cultures and ages responding to the following questions:

1. How would you define leadership?
2. What gifts do women bring to leadership?
3. How does your Catholic faith guide you as a leader?
4. What skills and attributes should an effective leader strive for?
5. What are effective ways of managing conflicting views and ideologies?

The aim is to provide an opportunity for those gathered to:

- listen to the input from the female leaders;
- consider their own responses to the questions;
- listen to the responses from other members of the group;
- reflect on what has been shared;
- enter into a respectful dialogue about the topic;
- pray and have fellowship.

Example: Using the video series for a 90-minute in-person gathering

1. Welcome
2. Prayer: you might like to use the International Women's Day Prayer ([attachment A](#)).
3. Play the first video.
4. Participants share what interested them about what the female leaders said.
5. Participants share their own thoughts on the topic.
6. Taking about one minute's silence, participants reflect on what has been shared.
7. Participants discuss the topic – indicating if they have new/different insights since listening to the leaders and others in the group.
8. Finish with prayer and hospitality.
9. The facilitator will need to be mindful of time by allocating approximately 15 minutes for each video, allowing time for prayer and hospitality. It would be helpful if participants bring their own notepad to write down their responses.

If you require further information about these videos or ways in which they can be used, please contact the National Centre for Evangelisation via info@nce.catholic.org.au.



This video series was originally designed for the Young Catholic Women's Fellowship, an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The Fellowship financially and pastorally supports a group of young women to be intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally formed for effective leadership roles in the communities in which they live and work. For more information, please see www.nce.catholic.org.au/womensfellowship.

Speaker biographies

The Women's Leadership video series features five senior female leaders who offer their perspectives on key questions about leadership.

Professor Rose Amal AC FAA FTSE FRSN

Rose holds a bachelor's degree and a PhD in Chemical Engineering. She is a UNSW Scientia Professor, Director of ARC Training Centre for the Global Hydrogen Economy (GlobH2E), Deputy Director of ARC Centre of Excellence for Carbon Science and Innovation (CSI), and Lead of NSW Powerfuels including Hydrogen Network.



Professor Rose Amal is recognised as a pioneer and leading authority in the fields of fine particle technology, photocatalysis and functional nanomaterials having made significant contributions to these related areas of research over the past 30 years. Her current research focuses on designing catalysis systems for clean energy and sustainable chemical manufacturing, thereby contributing to the efforts to address the global challenges of climate change.

Rose has received numerous prestigious awards and was named as 2019 NSW Scientist of the Year. She has received the nation's top civilian honour – the Companion of the Order of Australia as part of the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours for her eminent service to chemical engineering, particularly in the field of particle technology, through seminal contributions to photocatalysis, to education as a researcher and academic, and to women in science as a role model and mentor.

Rose resides in Malabar, NSW, with her husband, two beautiful grown-up children and two dogs and is actively involved as a musician and singer at St Andrew's Catholic Church, Malabar.

Dr Trudy Dantis BSc, MPhil, MBA, PhD

Trudy holds a PhD in Pastoral Studies from the University of Divinity and tertiary qualifications in Business, Community Resource Management and Social Work. Her PhD thesis was titled “*Tracing the pulse: An investigation into the vitality of Australian Catholic parishes*”.

Trudy is the Director of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference National Centre for Pastoral Research. She also heads the Conference’s Policy and Research Department.

Trudy is the author of two books including, *A Handbook for Building Stronger Parishes* (2016) and has co-authored several books and research reports on parish vitality, the demography of Australian Catholics and aspects of Catholic belief and practice in Australia.



Trudy is the National Coordinator for the ongoing Synod on Synodality 2021-2024 and has co-authored several reports from Australia and the Oceania region. She was lead researcher and Adjunct Secretary of the Plenary Council and co-authored publications such as the *Instrumentum Laboris* and *Listen to What the Spirit is Saying: Final Report for the Plenary Council Phase 1*.

Trudy has held honorary appointments at the Australian Catholic University and the University of Divinity. She currently serves as a member of the Board of the Christian Research Association. Trudy lives with her husband, Alwyn, in Canberra.

Sr Melissa Dwyer FdCC B Ed (Sec)

Sr Melissa holds a degree in Secondary Education, majoring in English and Physical Education, as well as an honorary doctorate from the Australian Catholic University for her contribution to promoting access to education for girls during her time in East Africa.

Sr Melissa made her Religious Profession as a Canossian Daughter of Charity in 2005. Prior to entering religious life, she had a dream of representing Australia as an Olympic javelin thrower. A volunteer mission experience in Africa helped her to discover that God's dream for her was to leave the sporting arena and serve Him radically as a consecrated woman.

Following her first profession in 2005, Sr Melissa taught in Australia for three years, before being sent to Malawi, East Africa, where she completed seven years as Principal of a Secondary School.

She returned to Brisbane in 2016 to take up the role as Assistant Leader for her congregation in Australia and was appointed Australian Leader in May 2019. From 2020 until today she remains part of the National Council for Catholic Religious in Australia.



In August 2022 she was elected to the General Council of the Canossian Daughters of Charity and moved to Rome in November 2022, where she currently resides.

Qwayne Guevara

Qwayne is the Lead Facilitator (Diocesan Synod) and Manager of Catholic Youth in the Diocese of Parramatta. She was born in Philippines and raised in Sydney.

After a life-changing experience at World Youth Day Poland, Qwayne started at the Diocese of Parramatta in youth ministry in 2017. Since then, she has worked closely with local leaders across parishes and schools to facilitate spaces of encounter, deepen community and build leadership capacity.

Qwayne was appointed Chair of the newly formed Australian Catholic Youth Ministry Network in 2023.

She founded The Hustle Society in 2019 with passionate leaders in Western Sydney; a warehouse space featuring a basketball court and common areas for gathering. She is the co-founder, coach, and player of Embers Basketball; a ministry aimed at providing access to basketball for women across all ages and backgrounds. From 2017 to 2023, she co-owned a local café, leading teams of young people, with the mission of offering genuine hospitality and connection through quality coffee.

Qwayne has worked in community organising, advocacy and law, holds a Master of Laws (Dispute Resolution) and will complete a Graduate Diploma of Theology at The University of Notre Dame this year. She loves hiking, contemplating the wonders of life and the world, writing, being active, and spending quality time with loved ones.



Dr Ursula Stephens

Ursula holds qualifications in adult education, business administration and social work.

She is CEO of Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited, a company set up by the Catholic Church to foster a culture of safeguarding and support for Catholic organisations to manage their regulatory and pastoral obligations to provide a safe environment for children and vulnerable people.

Ursula served as a Senator in the Australian Parliament for 12 years after which she was appointed as CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia.

Ursula lives in regional NSW with her family and is active in her local parish community.



For further information please contact the
National Centre for Evangelisation.

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