



Life & Family Conference

In January 2016 FLI held a Life & Family National Conference in Albury, NSW. It ran from the 21st till the 24th January. It was a great event that enabled pro-lifers from around Australia and the world to be connected with each other and to be part of the wider community in which we defend life and family. There were some great international speakers as well as the best from Australia. Including Archbishop Julian Porteous the Archbishop of Hobart, Bishop Cesare Bonivento from Papua New Guinea, Steve Mosher of the Population Research Institute in the USA, Dr. Vice Batarelo who led the successful campaign for Natural Marriage to be upheld in Croatia and Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, as well as many more great speakers who all gave inspiring talks on the issues we face as a society which affects all of us.

Prayer

Prayer is such an important aspect of what we do as Catholics. The conference was deeply rooted in the prayer for without God we can do nothing. To start the event we began with Holy Mass said by Archbishop Julian Porteous. Right from the very get go you had this sense of God being present amongst us. There was daily Mass in both the Ordinary form and the Extraordinary form of the Mass at 6am and 7am, alternating times each Mass was said. Then there was Sunday Mass in both forms, with the final Mass again being said by Archbishop Julian Porteous. The liturgy is life's source and summit which is what Fr Terence Mary Naughtin OFMConv spoke about. All things in life flow from the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and starting the day with Holy Mass really felt as though God was put in charge of the conference and that the speakers would then be filled with the Holy Spirit and would speak the truth with fervour and strength. This was definitely one of the highlights of the conference being able to worship God and receive him. Being able also to pray as a community is so



important and this leads into another aspect that was great to be a part of.

Community

The community aspect of the whole conference was great to be a part of and it really felt like a place where you could sit down with anyone there and feel that same authentic Catholic culture coming through. Catholic culture needs to be restored in this world, as there has been a rapid decline in the moral order. This conference allowed for like minded pro life Catholics to get together in a friendly atmosphere over 4 days to interact and engage on hot topics. If you had a question that needed answering on faith and morals our speakers were always willing to take the time needed to answer the question posed to them. The best way to restore Catholic culture is by taking action and standing up for what is true and good. This is what the conference aimed to teach people what to do and how to do it.

Action

The Catholic man or woman is called to act out their faith. We are not called to merely stand by and watch, all while claiming to pray for the world. Yes prayer is extremely important as I made mention before it is what gives us strength and fortitude to carry out our mission. But we must ACT! As St James said *"faith without works is dead"* The speakers all gave us great talks in which they outlined how to act out our wonderful faith. Ranging from issues such as Abortion, 'Gay Marriage', Homosexuality, Transgender agenda, Euthanasia, Liturgy, Gardasil and many more. They showed us how we are on the winning side but more than that they showed us how to save souls. We must fight with strength and clarity.

Speakers

Following will be in a way a little journal of sorts outlining the different talks and speakers that I heard directly.

Father Terence Mary Naughtin OFMConv was the first speaker I heard on the friday morning. I also happened to be the MC for this talk. Father's talk was titled "The Liturgy: Life's Source and Summit". It was a great address that gave great insight into how everything we do in our catholic life flows from the liturgy. If we first wish to bring Catholic Culture, the culture of life, back to society we must first bring Catholic Culture back into the liturgy.

Dr. Vice Batarelo was the man that led the successful campaign to uphold traditional marriage in face of the attacks against marriage in Croatia. They were trying to bring in so called 'gay marriage' over and if it wasn't for Dr. Vice Batarelo and his NGO group Vigilare then Croatia likely would have had 'gay marriage'. In his address he gave us here in Australia a blueprint a plan on how to combat the people pushing this agenda onto us. He showed us how to act as Catholics and how to stand up to the devil. Which is what it really amounts too. This was a truly inspirational talk one that gave not just myself great hope but anyone there that heard it.

Steve Mosher then gave a great presentation about the Pope Francis effect in the USA. As usual with Steve it was a talk that was filled with great information, information that is extremely important to know. It was a refreshing talk, he spoke up in defence of the Holy Father Pope Francis who often is misquoted or taken out of context by the mass media. He also gave a great

talk on the friday night, highlighting the complete evil of planned parenthood and the abortion empire that it has built.

Major Bernard Gaynor was perhaps my favourite presentation of the whole conference. He gave a truly inspirational presentation about the attacks that have been levelled against him by the so called 'equality' movement. He had 20 plus discrimination cases put against him. His talk outlined a lot of these cases, plus he gave an insight into how it affected his daily life. He lost his post in the Australian Army which he had served honourably for many years. He showed how the gay movement is relentless in what they do to ensure that their agenda will get through. His dedication to the fight is inspiring to say the least.

Father Peter Murphy was the first speaker on the Saturday morning. This was a beautiful talk on the seven sorrows of Our Lady. He made the connection between the seven sorrows of Our Lady to the sorrowful mothers who head to abortion clinics with great sorrow in their hearts. This showed us how to love these poor mothers who need someone to show them real love.

Bishop Cesare Bonivento was the final presenter on the Saturday. He spoke about the Synod on the family and how it impacts all of us. It was presented with charity and clarity by the Bishop. It showed everyone there how to speak up for truth but do it with charity and not imprudently. He was always respectful in what he said.

The Conference was an amazing experience, let us now go forth from this wonderful event and preach the truth. Use what we have learned to become better Catholics and Defend the Defenceless!!! God Bless you all.

Vigils

Join us in person, or by prayer as the Helpers of God's Precious Infants step up to the front lines in the battle for Life.

Sydney:

Tuesday 8:00am - 10:00am, Friday 8:00am - 10:00am, Saturday 8:00am - 10:00am.
120 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills.

Albury:

Thursday 9:00am - 5:00pm.
586 Englehardt St, Albury.
More at Melbourne, Townsville, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane. Full details are at fli.org.au.

Events

Pro Family and Pro Life related events in the coming months

Day of the Unborn Child 2016 will be held on the 3rd April 2016. This is the Sunday closest to the feast of the Annunciation. It will start with 10.30am Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, then 12pm angelus then we head out for the procession, finishing with benediction at 1.30pm.

There will be a peaceful prayer vigil on the steps of the Cathedral on the 5th March, the night of the Mardi Gras in reparation for the sins committed that night.

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