



## **CSYMA rejuvenates Catholic Schooling in Australia**

One of the best news stories for the Catholic Church in Australia was on display at the annual Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia Staff Conference at Marist College Canberra last week. 140 key Educators and Youth Ministry leaders attended.

CSYMA started at St Edmund's School in Canberra in 2003 and, despite being largely to date a voluntary outreach of St Edmund's Director of Mission, Peter Woods, and then local Parish Priest, Fr Chris Ryan MGL, it is influencing Catholic schooling across the country.

**CSYMA** brings together secondary schools, staff and organisations committed to working together with youth evangelisation initiatives for Catholic Secondary Schools.

The networking of **CSYMA** began in 2007. CSYMA is designed as a post-World Youth Day strategy for the Australian Catholic Church and has been endorsed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Commission for Mission and Faith Formation. It hopes to make every participating school a Centre for the New Evangelisation.

**CSYMA** promotes a four phase approach to youth evangelisation that is incorporated into the heart of the School curriculum.

- **Phase One** – Retreat and/or Youth Ministry experience
- **Phase Two** – Youth Ministry RE Curriculum Pathway
- **Phase Three** – Formation of a Senior Youth Ministry Team.
- **Phase Four** – Providing broader Catholic Church and post-school opportunities for youth ministry and mission.

The end product is impressive. Key student leaders from a number of schools confidently shared their faith and their experiences with conference attendees and other school students. Drama, video clips, modern worship music and testimonies were used extremely effectively. Students also took part in Catholic Mission's social justice interactive drama, Village Space, and there was input on service outreach into the community.

Faith and Action were intertwined in a very positive, contemporary and energetic fashion, providing an example of an active faith which is easy to share with young people today.

Catholic Mission has taken on the role of National partner of CSYMA as part of its call to form Australian Catholics for mission. This will enable CSYMA to expand its services to the Catholic Church nationally.

For more information go to [www.csyma.com](http://www.csyma.com).

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