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## ***NEW PRESIDENT***

Catholic Religious Australia has a new President following the group's 32<sup>nd</sup> national assembly in Melbourne last week.

Sister Clare Condon, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, will be CRA President for the next two years.

Sr Clare was born in Jamberoo, south of Wollongong. She was educated at St Francis Xavier's and St Mary's Star of the Sea, Wollongong. Her tertiary qualifications are in accountancy, sociology, education and social policy.

After profession as a Sister of the Good Samaritan in 1972 she trained as a teacher and taught mainly in Queensland.

In 1988 she was appointed Province Counsellor in the Sydney Province of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan and in 1993 was elected as a member of the Congregational Governing Council.

At the end of this term of office Sr Clare joined the Archdiocese of Adelaide Pastoral Team in March 2000 and became Chancellor of the Archdiocese in 2001. She held this position until she was elected Congregational Leader of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict in September 2005.

Other positions which Sr Clare currently holds are:

Member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Church Insurances;

Member of governing company of the Australian Catholic University;

Member of the Administrative Council and regional representative for the International Conference of Benedictine Women.

Sr Clare replaces Fr Mark Raper SJ, of Melbourne, who finishes his term as Provincial of the Jesuits on July 31. The new Jesuit Superior General, Fr Adolfo Nicolas SJ, has appointed Fr Raper as President of the Jesuit Conference of East Asia and Oceania (JCEAO), the position Fr Nicolas, himself, held until his election as Father General on January 19, 2008. Fr Raper will be based in Manila.

When the new CRA Council meets for the first time in Sydney in mid-August, only four of the previous Council will return: elected members, Fr Tim Brennan MSC (Sydney) who has been treasurer and Br Vince Duggan CFC (Brisbane); West Australian representative, Sr Anna Fewer PBVM (Perth) and Anglican invitee, Br Alfred Boonkong Leong (Hunter Valley).

The new members will be Fr Tim Norton (SVD, Sydney) and State representatives, Sr Majella Kelly PBVM (Tasmania), Sr Maureen Andrews MFIC (Queensland), Fr Noel Connolly SSC (Victoria), Sr Enid Wood OP (South Australia) and Marie Duffy RSM (New South Wales).

Among the issues the Council will deal with will be to follow-on from the assembly by developing practical applications of its theme: *Our Australian Multi-cultural Church: Reality, Gift and Challenge*. Following a powerful mix of academic (Professor Des Cahill Professor of Intercultural Studies at RMIT University of Melbourne) and personal input from leaders and members of congregations as well as table sharing, the assembly made clear presentation to the Council that it should pursue multi-culturalism as a significant thrust.

***further information: Sr Clare Condon SGS (photo attached) 02 8752 5300 and Fr Mark Raper SJ 03 9810 7300***