



**Subject: A Province-wide Young Adult Ministry – The Cardoner Network**

Dear Jesuits, Provincial Assistants, Chairs and Heads of Ministry,

I am pleased to announce the establishment of **The Cardoner Network**. This will be the sole Province entity responsible for engaging in and coordinating our ministry of faith, service and community with 'young adults', those who have completed secondary school up until the age of 30. The Cardoner Network (TCN) will be established on the strong and successful model of The Cardoner Project (TCP) but with a broader mandate.

**Background**

In June 2021, I announced that all existing Young Adult initiatives of our Province would come under one ministry of the Society of Jesus. I commissioned a Working Group to formulate a national approach based on a cohesive direction, one that would integrate existing works and opportunities, with clear accountabilities and responsibilities for those involved in the Province's Young Adult Ministry.

This decision followed a period of conversation and discernment, seeking to reflect and fulfil both the Universal Apostolic Preference, "Journeying with Youth – accompanying young people in the creation of a hope filled future" and the Province Apostolic Priority, "Form the Young in a Faith Seeking Justice". The Young Adult Ministry Working Group has concluded this project and finalised the governance arrangements and the strategic plan for the new entity, TCN. A new board has now been appointed to further develop and deliver this plan. I thank the members of the Working Group for bringing us to this point.

**Management and Governance**

TCN grows from and is being established utilising the structures and arrangements of TCP. The existing management of TCP now serve as the management of TCN and will work with the board to determine what ongoing arrangements will need to be in place to meet its expanded mission. I thank CEO, Robbie Graham and Rector, Fr Ramesh Richards SJ and their team for their ongoing service.

I thank Bruce Begbie, who had been the Chair of TCP, for serving as the initial Chair of TCN, and so ensuring an appropriate transition. Joining Bruce on the inaugural TCN Board are Julian Butler SJ, Kieran Gill SJ, Murray Happ, Philippa McIlroy and Cate Sydes. I am grateful to each of them for their willingness to serve our mission.

I am missioning Julian Butler SJ as my Provincial Assistant for Young Adult Ministry from January 2023 and he will be appointed as Chair of TCN from the beginning of the new year.

**Mission**

It is important that we have strong and clear governance structures in place, but governance is not mission. Good governance allows our mission to be fulfilled. I want to share the mission of TCN with you. This mission reflects our shared commitments as a Province, located in the particular challenges and opportunities of working with young adults today. The Cardoner Network mission is:

*'To nurture and accompany young adults in expressing a Christ-centred desire to love and serve those in need domestically and overseas, sustained by communities that help build a hope-filled future. Central to this mission is formation of young people that reflects the traditions of the Catholic Church within the Jesuit and Ignatian tradition; witnessing and expressing justice by way of service to those marginalised, oppressed and dispossessed; and building community that sustains that commitment to service and the faith that gives rise to it. This mission is understood within the mission statement of the Australian Jesuit Province – Welcoming (forming strong faithful relationships), Discerning (being reflective and strategic in all we do) and Courageous (standing up boldly to effect change).'*



**THE SOCIETY OF JESUS**  
IN AUSTRALIA

130 Power Street  
PO Box 6071  
Hawthorn VIC 3122  
(03) 9810 7300  
provincial@sjasl.org.au  
ABN: 21 628 088 979

## **Invitation**

I know that many Jesuits, Jesuit ministries and our companions have contributed to the Province's ministry to young adults, including by working generously with TCP over the last decade. Your support is much appreciated. The establishment of TCN provides an opportunity to further develop and renew our common desire to work with young people in a way that is consistent with our common mission and enhances all our ministries. For some Jesuits and ministries, this will be consistent with a strong current engagement. For others it will require reflection on the most generous way forward.

In all cases it is my hope and expectation that all Jesuits and Jesuit ministries will give generous consideration to how they can work with TCN in mutually supporting ways to further our common mission. I ask that you take up the opportunity to further consider the way this Province-wide young adult ministry works with each of our ministries. I ask all Jesuits to consider what contribution they might make, within the context of their Jesuit ministry, their ministry in other settings and through their community. For Jesuits and Jesuit ministries engaged in faith-based ministry for young adults, I expect they will engage with TCN as the coordinating point for these efforts.

I commend the establishment of The Cardoner Network to you and thank you in anticipation for your support of this single, Province-wide ministry for young adults.

**Fr Quyen Vu SJ**  
**Provincial**