



TRIBUTE TO JOHN MOLONY



A special day was held on October 19 to honour and celebrate the great contributions made by John Molony in his days as a priest in the Ballarat Diocese. In later years John lectured in the History Department of the Australian University in Canberra and completed a distinguished career as Emeritus Professor within the University.

Around sixty-five people, including John's son Michael, gathered in St Patrick's Hall Ballarat to reflect on John's involvement and his concern for the social issues of his day. His energy, commitment, scholarship and the ideas expressed in his many publications have been and still are an inspiration for us as we address our spiritual life and those many challenging issues that are in the forefront of people's mind today.

The program included three keynote speakers, Jim Ross talked about the influence John Molony had on him and on the development of the lay apostolate. Fr John McKinnon spoke on his time living in the same house and the spirituality that Molony brought to his role as a priest. Frank Sheehan outlined a number of issues of today such as systems of communication; mental health; and changes to health care that have occurred since the reference point of the 1960's. He referred to the effect the changes have had on our community.

Following lunch, there were five discussion groups. Participants were invited to attend one of these. The groups focused on the following topics:

Democracy with Phillip Moore; Global Population with John Mildren; Our Endangered Planet and the Future of the Church with Fr Barry Ryan; Human Growth and Development with Tony Haintz and Education was led by Sandra Harvey from the Catholic Education Office Ballarat.



The day ended with summaries of the discussions held at each of the groups and a thank you to all those who attended. John's legacy was acknowledged and all remembered his life serving his family, the church and Australian history.

Frank Sheehan

Photos below: 1. Jim Kierce, Bill Hitchins, Jim Muller. 2. Tony Haintz, Fr Barry Ryan, Mary Darcy. 3. Bishop Peter Connors, Tony Haintz. 4. Vin Dillon, Frank Sheehan. 5. Gerard Cunningham, Phillip Moore. 6. Sandra Harvey, Margaret Lavery, Rosalie Sheehan. 7. Sr Geraldine Mugavin rsm, Fr Dan Arundell. 8. Frank Sheehan, Fr Dan Arundell, Frank Murphy. 9. John Mildren, Mary Darcy

