

Another successful biannual training weekend was this time held in the Diocese of Palmerston North. Approximately 150 participants involved in marriage ministry nationally gathered for formation and fellowship.

Providing material for a group with such a diversity of knowledge and experience is always a challenge; however the evaluations confirmed the inspiring workshops provided a great variety of valuable and thought provoking material, providing plenty of discussion during refreshment breaks.

A particular highlight was the lively and interactive presentation from John Faisandier who explored the nature of resistance and how we as educators can work with it. We looked at what may be happening for couples as they prepare for marriage and were challenged to be aware of our own reactions and judgements and how they impact on the couples we meet.

Other presentations included:

John Kliensman – The Church’s response to bio-ethical issues

Paulette Berryman – Attachment Theory

MaryJo Murphy – The Annulment Process

Fr Paul Kerridge – Couple Reflection Time

Bronny & David Lea together with Fr John Rate – Marriage is a Journey to Salvation

Notes from these speakers and also those from previous weekends have been made available on this site.

Unfortunately due to time restraints a beautiful presentation from the Auckland team reviewing the NZ developed ‘Commit’ programme (introductory communication inventory) had to be interrupted in the midst of healthy discussions. I encourage you all to continue to direct your thoughts and feedback to Tonny Flapper - tonnyf@cda.org.nz

Together with our wonderful MC Mark Richards, we once again acknowledge and thank all our presenters for sharing their gift of knowledge and wisdom with us.

Overwhelmingly encouraging was the support for this national training weekend to continue. For it is the inspiration and nourishment we gather from each other which ultimately refreshes us all to return home ready to continue serving.