

My name is Neve Tually, and this year I am excited to be working at Merici College as the Youth Minister. This year we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the College and it will be a big year of 'Fidelitas' (faithfulness) in the school community. I would love to make involvement in youth ministry this year as exciting and inclusive as possible and give the students opportunities for leadership and to be a part of their faith journeys. I will be working with Merici's Youth Ministry group, Angela's Angels throughout the year.

Angela's Angels meetings

Angela's Angels meetings will be held Thursdays Lunchtime in Rm 208 for all students (Yrs 7-12).

Youth Ministry Equipping School

Earlier this term, senior students had the opportunity to attend the Oceania Youth Ministry Equipping school, together with other students from Canberra and surrounds, Youth Ministers from across the Diocese, and international youth leaders from across all of Oceania

Equipping School is a four-day program focused on training and personal development. Day sessions gave the opportunity to learn valuable Youth Ministry Skills, such as running retreats and games, sharing personal stories, and working as a team to accomplish a vision for Youth Ministry in their school. It also dedicated time to personal growth and developing faith in order to be an authentic witness to others (see video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24Rp-8Wsxns&feature=youtu.be>).

The senior students who attended were able to come away from the weekend inspired and "equipped" to make a difference in the faith life of the College.

This term I was very privileged to go with several other beloved Merici sisters to the CSYMI equipping school at Saint Christopher's Cathedral, and it was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. There were workshops and lectures that helped me to understand more about the importance of leadership, friendship and faith. The Equipping School also helped me to put into practice the skills that I need to contribute positively to my school life, my home life, and my church life through my faith. Thank you to everyone who has made this amazing opportunity to happen.

Zoe Beresford

The Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International (CYSMI) Equipping School was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. I was able to make new friends and learn new things about different cultures and how that plays a part in faith. This Equipping School did not only give me the opportunity to enrich my faith, but it also helped me to understand myself better. The CSYMI Equipping school also helped me to establish a new bond with the other students from Merici College as well as other Catholic school students from places such as New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, Kenya, Uganda and people from all over Australia. It was an experience that I would recommend for other people and I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in this amazing program.

Marica Coetzee

Over the course of the equipping school, I chose to undertake workshops in the "Foundations and Skills of CSYMA", writing a testimony, and running a Retreat. These workshops have given me the opportunity to

develop my own faith and my leadership skill which will help me throughout this year in my role as Spirituality Captain.

Being able to share my faith journey with others, and in turn listening to other people's faith encounters, helped us to open up to one another and share our vulnerability, creating deeper relationships between us all.

Making so many new friends with people from Canberra, the Central Coast, the South Coast and New Zealand was definitely something I'll never forget. Being able to share my experiences with many other Spirituality Captains has already helped me in organising events and making plans for the future of Youth Ministry at Merici.

Madisson Doyle

Last weekend I attended the Oceania Youth Ministry Equipping school with five other girls from Merici. There were students my own age from all over Australia, Africa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Samoa, New Zealand and Tonga.

The Equipping School was hosted by the Canberra and Goulburn Archdiocese and focused on our personal and professional development. The Equipping School offered wide range of development topics and opportunities. The developmental learning was applied using gospel and scripture; making it relevant and understandable for our generation. An incredible experience, I recommend it anyone who has the opportunity to attend the Equipping School in the future.

Emma Howse

The Oceania Youth Ministry Equipping school was an incredible faith journey experience. The highlights included the keynote speeches, talks on leadership and the scriptures reading workshop; all were very informative and there was a wide variety of workshops to choose from. Aside from the learning, I really enjoyed meeting new people. I met people from local, interstate and international schools. The evenings were very enjoyable as they all included your own faith journey including singing, prayers and group activities.

Grace Howse

From the 28 March to 3 April I had the opportunity to go to the Youth Ministry Equipping School run by CSYMA in the Canberra & Goulburn Archdiocese. The equipping school provided us with new skills and helped us onto our paths into youth ministry within our schools, while also delivering us a retreat experience. The Equipping School was one of the most memorable and life changing things I've experienced in my life. I am so happy that I was able to take up this opportunity. The other Merici girls and I were able to bond over the four days, as well as make new friends from both Australia and other countries. If you have the opportunity to go to the Equipping School, I would 100% recommend that you take it up.

Kiera Stanford