

Changing Lives



In 2012 the Province 20 Youth Support Fund awarded a grant, sponsored by Canning Circle, that set a young man on the road to priesthood.

Sheldon Burke and Georgia Naughton-Watt were both given Catenian grants to attend a Youth Leaders Formation Course hosted by the archdiocese of Sydney.

Twenty participants from around Australia, 12 girls and eight boys from the ages of 18 to 27, including Sheldon and Georgia, shared a month-long journey that involved daily Masses, devine office prayers and two lectures per day given by inspiring local and national speakers.

On her return, Georgia, who was sponsored by Dianella Circle, described the experience as: “a life-changing course for young adults searching for a deeper understanding of their faith”.

More recently, Sheldon expressed his appreciation to the Youth Support Fund and Canning Circle for its sponsorship, in a heartfelt letter:

“I was blessed to be sponsored by the Catenian Association. The opportunity and the course was one of the factors that kick-started my discernment towards the priesthood and religious life.

“At the end of 2014, after my studies, I began a process of vocational discernment with the Somascan Fathers in Rockingham and Spearwood parishes. In 2015 I left for northern Italy to complete my noviciate, where I professed my first vows in September 2016. Since then I’ve been based in Rome where I’m completing my philosophical studies towards priesthood at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross founded by the Opus Dei prelatore.

“I write, rather belatedly, to thank the Catenian Association for being instruments of God, allowing me to find my vocation in religious life. I cannot thank you enough for sponsoring me back in 2012 to take part in the fruitful course that exposed me to young seminarians and religious life, starting a fire in my own heart and allowing me to discover the unique calling towards holiness Our Lord has called me to.”