



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods
20 July 2021

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

A little over three years ago, I had the pleasure of being at the launch of a new initiative called *Fire Up Ministries* (fireupministries.com). Along with several hundred young people, I gathered at Epping for the launch of this marvellous initiative by Simon and Madeleine Carrington.

I first had the pleasure of meeting the Carringtons quite early in my ministry as an Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Sydney when Simon and Madeleine were engaged to be married. The next time our paths crossed was when I participated in a panel to discuss vocations in August 2017. Just two months shy of their wedding day, which they celebrated on 7 October – the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary – Simon and Madeleine were representing couples called to married life.

I distinctly remember being impressed not only by their eloquence, but also their radiating a clear sense to others that what they were living out as a soon-to-be-married couple was nothing less than a response to God's call.

In a similar way, I am convinced that what they embarked upon with Fire Up Ministries is also a response to a call. The world, and our young people in particular, is crying out for good news regarding issues that plumb the depths of their identity, particularly those that touch upon that very beautiful and delicate, yet complex and profound area of human sexuality.

When we look around the world, we are constantly being given reminders of the darkness that envelops it, particularly in all matters relating to human identity. But as the saying goes, "it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness", and both Simon and Madeleine are in their burgeoning ministry, providing that little bit of light to the young people of Broken Bay, Parramatta, Sydney, and beyond.

I believe that this is indeed good news for our community of the Church – especially for our young people as they explore their conviction in life and mission as men and women of faith.

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Simon and Madeleine's vision has promoted a mission to restore marriage and family life in our culture by proclaiming Saint John Paul II's Theology of the Body, which is a comprehensive teaching encompassing all of life from conception until natural death. A topic that is indeed ripe for our time.

People often ask me for direction and resources that might assist in making positive and fruitful choices in life. I would encourage communities throughout Broken Bay to see Fire Up Ministries as one such experience which offers positive Catholic teaching and experience to our young people.

Blessings of love, peace, and good health for the week ahead,

+Anthony