



Fran Spora  
Diocese of Bathurst

Fran Spora's contribution to the Bathurst diocese has been to keep the conversation going, to question – with St Paul on the road to Damascus – “Lord, what would YOU have us to do?”

She has nine sisters and one brother and so lively discussion around various tables over the years has ever been mother's milk to Fran. Debate is a family sport. As a one-time student at Loreto she carries a sense of obligation: “noblesse oblige” was a motto firmly planted.

She has been exposed to and offered untold opportunities. She has had the privilege of offering hospitality to saints and sinners, scholars, poets and dreamers – a legacy from Celtic forebears whose doors were open to all.

Fran was thrilled by Vatican II – a time in her life when she felt nurtured by the Church, very much a fully paid-up member of the People of God. Years on, she rails against some of the pronouncements from the Vatican which she perceives as archaic or head-in-the-sand, or out of touch. She regrets a lack of consultation, a lack of transparency by some in authority. She questions a system where secrecy and lack of accountability is acceptable. This can translate into lack of respect. Does Jesus weep over Jerusalem, or just laugh at our foolishness?

Her life has been lived with the knowledge that the God she worships is a God of love, who lavishes his love upon us despite our fragility and fickleness.