



Eileen Lander
Diocese of Cairns

Eileen Lander is an influential Catholic Woman simply because she is inspirational.

Who Eileen is, inspires goodness in others. The lovely thing about Eileen is that she makes all manner of people feel entirely comfortable and valued. Although talented in many ways, Eileen seems so ordinary – a wonderfully affirming gift for those who have worked closely with her and for those to whom she ministers. Eileen is immediately accessible to everyone who seeks her opinion, counsel or reassurance.

She has a compassionate insight into and empathy for people who find themselves in difficult situations. This compassionate insight was often invaluable for the recalcitrant student presenting to Eileen in her role as Principal during her years at St Monica's Catholic College Cairns.

Those same inspirational qualities influence and sustain the pastoral platform for Eileen's role as Diocesan Marriage Tribunal Director, as she assists and supports couples and individuals through the marriage annulment process. Importantly, all these attributes are also on offer for the friend who is simply 'letting off steam'.

Eileen's wisdom, insight and spirituality never fail to inspire the professional seeking advice on policy, or a colleague who is seeking a way to make meaning out of an existing reality. In giving to others, Eileen makes others feel that they are the giver.

'Down to earth', Eileen embraces the task at hand whether it be cleaning the Cathedral brassware or assisting with publishing the Cairns Diocesan News paper. Eileen has pursued her ongoing education in Information Technology, Canon Law, Theology and Spirituality. Furthermore she shares those skills generously to benefit others.

It is a delight to participate with Eileen in the Lenten Programs and Lectio Divina. Eileen shares her faith, life/faith journey and her path through the Cross with a simplicity that speaks of her life-giving spirituality. The flowering of her spirituality is evident in her way of being: optimistic, engaged, respectful, forgiving, hospitable and consistently surprised when others show appreciation and admiration for her contribution.

Was Dickens referring to Eileen when he wrote: *'Some great people make others feel small, but the real great people are those who make others feel great.'*?