



Annual Report

'03

Catholic Mission

www.catholicmission.org.au



Catholic Mission

Our Vision...Life for All

“I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly”... (Jn 10:10b)

Our vision is of a world in which all people, free from any discrimination and all barriers to life, can reach full happiness, allowing them to live their lives in full dignity, as the Creator God intends.

Our Mission ...To achieve Life for All in the work of global mission

Like Jesus our Mission is to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, let the oppressed go free, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favour (Cf. Lk 4: 18).

Our Work...

Educating about mission and justice

Engaging Australians in global mission

Partnering local churches and communities

Fostering local church leadership

Encouraging children and adults to care for children

As the Australian arm of the Church's global mission aid agency.



Catholic Mission, led by the power of the Spirit, is right to the world for all peoples, proclaiming the Good News.



Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Sepe, and Fr Terence Bell, May 2003.

Dear Friends of Mission,

During the past two years, the National Council and Diocesan Directors have contributed to the formulation of a renewed statement of the vision and mission of Catholic Mission. The fruit of their efforts is contained on the page opposite. This statement will be displayed in all our offices to remind directors, staff, and visitors of the ideals that govern and guide all our efforts.

There is a constant tension in all organisations engaged in the proclamation of the Gospel concerning the priority that is to be given to the various tasks committed to them. Pope John Paul II, in *Redemptoris Missio*, highlighted the many tasks that face those engaged in the mission of Christ. What he calls the "complex reality of mission" he enumerates in Chapter 5 – witness, proclamation of Jesus Christ, conversion and baptism, forming local churches, 'ecclesial basic communities' as a force for evangelisation, incarnating the Gospel in peoples' cultures, dialogue with our brothers and sisters of other religions, promoting development by forming consciences, and charity: source and criterion of mission.

All of these challenges are entrusted to the Pontifical Mission Societies, firstly, to ensure that the Church in Australia is ever aware of the needs, difficulties, dangers, and challenges that face the young Churches, then, to raise the funds necessary to ensure that THE PATHS OF MISSION outlined by Pope John Paul II are able to be realised amongst people crying out for the Good News of Jesus and the integral human development that is essential for all persons.

Thus we commit ourselves to the mission of Jesus that all might have life to the full, not only belonging to the Kingdom now and eternally but also enabled to share in the right enjoyment of good health, education, employment, justice and peace.

I thank all – donors, bishops, priests, parish secretaries, religious, teachers, catechists, etc – who have cooperated with me and the Catholic Mission staff throughout the country in helping to make this dream a closer reality for the millions of people who cry out for support. The work of Catholic Mission is never the province of just a few. It must always embrace the active and positive support of all members of the Church.

I thank, especially, the National and Diocesan Offices' Staff for their faith, enthusiasm, and skills they place at the service of Mission. Special words of thanks to the National Office Staff who endured and made smooth the move to new premises in Chatswood. Also to Archbishop Canalini, Apostolic Nuncio in Australia, who blessed and opened these premises on September 14, the Feast of the Holy Cross.

Each year we realise that the work is never finished, that we have made only a small inroad into the known needs of people, that we must never tire. I hope this report not only lets you know where your help has been effective, but also the need for us to work harder and longer because the end is not yet in sight.

Yours sincerely in our Lord,

National Director





Catholic Mission
is the Australian arm
of the Church's global
mission aid agency in
a world-wide network
known as the Pontifical
Mission Societies. For
more than 180 years
Catholic Mission has
been working to make
this dream a reality with
communities in over
160 countries by:





Educating About Mission and Justice...

creating awareness and providing educational resources throughout Australia.

In schools and Parishes throughout the year, this task was carried out by National Office Staff, Diocesan Directors, and especially by the School Development Officers, that now exist in eight of our twenty-eight dioceses.

In the schools, they work with teachers and students and with those who oversee the Religious Education Curricula and Policies around the country. They also share their experiences and approaches and plan the direction that best fits the current National Plan.

Resources

Resources to assist teachers were produced by National Office Staff, Danielle Achikian and Patrick Fox. “children first” informed schools where the money they had raised during the previous year had been sent and challenged them to better the results. The theme of peace permeated all the resources during the year. By looking at issues which militate against peace, children were asked to be engaged in overcoming all that frustrates the realisation of a peace-filled life – hunger, lack of proper healthcare, the exploitation of children as soldiers, absence of education opportunities. Real life situations and stories from places we have funded – Kenya, Solomon Islands, Uganda, and Bangladesh – helped to illustrate the magnitude of the problems we face.

The theme of peace was taken up even more strongly in the Teachers Notes and Worksheets provided for World Mission Day and Mission Week. The theme for both parishes and schools was “Peace for Life” so that the whole Church community was united in prayer, learning, and fundraising.

Publications

Information about the missionary work of the Church was promoted among adults through the twice-yearly publication of “Mission Today”. It is made available in the parishes and mailed to donors. The first issue asked the question: “Why Mission?” and gave the answer in editorial and articles: “Because everyone has the right to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ”. The second issue was centred on the “Peace for Life” theme of World Mission Day.

Other forms of education in mission take place when we send to our Children’s Mission Partners quarterly photos and stories; when, in an activity called “Wine Aid”, people who have committed themselves to the quarterly purchase of twelve or sixteen bottles of wine with a donation of \$12 for each carton going to Catholic Mission, receive an update sheet which gives information about a variety of projects, people, or difficulties facing the young churches.

Mail-outs

For St Peter Apostle and for Children’s Mission, there were annual mail-outs which informed donors of the situations facing seminarians and novices and a particular project involving children and their spiritual, educational, and health needs. For Christmas 2003, the Children’s Mission focus was on a project that engaged seminarians in supporting the educational and health needs of children in Malawi.



Engaging Australians in global mission...

offering opportunities to participate in this work of mission and justice through prayer, action, giving and cross-cultural immersion.

Propagation of the Faith

Through appeals in the parishes for Propagation of the Faith and for World Mission Day, we sought to immerse the People of God in Australia in sacrificial giving for the missionaries and their communities. Sadly, not all dioceses are yet engaged to the same level in this global effort. Some have only the one appeal, either Propagation of the Faith or World Mission Day. Because one third of the funds must necessarily remain within Australia to enable remote and sparsely populated dioceses to continue to exist, it is important that the people of Australia are given the opportunity not only to support the Church overseas but also the Church at home. We have become better informed about and responsive to the justified pastoral responsibilities of the Church in Australia.

St Peter Apostle

The annual collection for St Peter Apostle is done through the mail. Working off the list of donors available to us, we provide them with an annual newsletter which comes from the information supplied to us by seminaries and novitiates. Sometimes this information is gathered personally. This was especially true of the seminary in Bomana, Papua New Guinea which was visited by Peter Gates, Deputy National Director, in company with the past and present National Directors of England and Wales, Frs. John Corcoran and John Dale respectively. In addition they were able to visit the Novitiate of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart on Yule Island. These firsthand experiences and sharing enrich our presentations and provide accountability to our donors for the proper distribution of our funds.

Mission Week

In Mission Week (19-25 October 2003), adults participated in fundraising through the church collections taken up on World Mission Day. On Children's Mission Day, children and adults were again invited to wear armbands which this year carried the words of our theme, "Peace for Life", along with our website address.

Children's Mission

Children were asked also to carry out fundraising activities on Children's Mission Day, the Wednesday of Mission Week. It is good to report on the great efforts carried out by the schools with two dioceses averaging over \$4 per head, another three over \$2 per head, and another five over \$1 per head. Sadly, overall, less money was raised in schools this year, with the per capita giving of school children dropping from 73 cents to 65 cents. We have a long way to go to reach a targeted average of \$2 per student.

Children's Mission Partners

Children's Mission Partners Programme is very successful with many new supporters committing themselves to donate \$15 per month to the work of Children's Mission. It is an aspect of the work that continues to grow each year. The use of advertising in parish Bulletins and on Radio and TV through Community Service Announcements enabled many not of our faith to engage themselves in work that is vital for human development, spiritual awareness, and growth in faith to take place.

Our Website

The website (www.catholicmission.org.au) is a valuable means of reaching people both within and outside the Church. Teachers make good use of it to download the resources that are freely available for classroom presentations. Hits are often received from outside Australia and enquiries to us are passed on to the National Directors in the relevant countries.

GIG

Getting Involved Globally (GIG) had difficulties again in being offered for The Philippines because of the security risk to participants. However, we were able to arrange one for Fiji in July 2003. Three Teachers, funded by the Brisbane Catholic Education Office, and two Catholic Mission Diocesan Directors spent 16 days in a cultural immersion and mission experience under the direction of our Mission Education Officer. All testified to the value of the experience. One teacher has now committed herself to working in Africa for two years.

Staff

During 2003 we lost a valued member of National Staff who daily used his gifts and enthusiasm for the mission of the Church in an effective and remarkable way. I refer to Mark Lees. I quote from the letter of appreciation I wrote to him. "I have always admired your enthusiasm for the mission of the Church, your awareness and detailed knowledge of mission areas, your work ethic and work load, your readiness to share your knowledge of mission with others in a most effective way, your capacity to remember people and to make links, your ability to suffer fools gladly, your patience with me at my times of slow response, your respect for those who have held the position of National Director, your readiness to sacrifice yourself at personal cost and sometimes at cost to your family. But most of all I admire and praise you for your faith and the way you live it out not only in service of Catholic Mission but also in your local community." We wish him and his family God's blessing and peace always.

In October we welcomed Helen Brooks whose position is to help establish a better bequest programme for Catholic Mission and to build up good relationships with donors who are remembering us in their wills.





Partnering local churches and communities...

spiritual, pastoral care and building programs overseas and in remote Australia.

Overseas Mission Aid

During the 2003 distribution of funds, our focus was on Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. A total of \$2,269,397.52 was transmitted to the Papal Nuncio in Port Moresby for distribution to the approved projects.

Examples of the projects are:

1. Construction of a study room for Community Health Workers
2. Formation courses for community leaders
3. Construction of multifunction centres for community activities and meetings, and Sunday Masses, and extensions to buildings already built.
4. The building of Churches and Chapels
5. Motorcycles, four-wheel drives, and boats for parish communities
6. Construction of Formation Houses for Religious Sisters and Brothers
7. Purchase and installation of solar panels for electricity in the mission centres and villages
8. Construction of residences for youth workers or for field workers.
9. Digging of wells
10. Support for Catechists in their training and their reimbursement
11. Maintenance of buildings

Home Mission Fund

One third of the funds raised for Propagation of the Faith are used in Australia to support remote area dioceses and those that are very sparsely populated, and pastoral works among aboriginal communities. The bishops, priests, and people of these areas are almost totally dependent upon the generosity of the Catholic faithful in the more populated areas for their effective presence in our land.

People from other lands often do not have a sense of the size of our country, of the isolation in which so many people live, nor of the harshness of climate and living conditions. We applaud the faith and commitment of so many who choose to live in difficult conditions and who achieve such great results.

PALMS

In addition to diocesan support, the other beneficiary of the Home Mission Fund is PALMS which is the sending agency for Australian Lay Missionaries who serve both in the remote dioceses of Australia and overseas. With tighter regulations being imposed by the Federal Government on their support for overseas volunteers, the need for support for PALMS is increasing. Their request for help was for \$106,238.

A recent development is the presence of missionaries from Africa and Papua New Guinea who are working very successfully with our aboriginal people. They are signs to us of the growth in faith and mission awareness in the young Churches. The good we have been able to accomplish over the years through our generous giving is already bearing fruit. Not only in our country are missionaries at work from young Churches but this sharing of faith is taking place also in other developing countries. Missionaries from Asia are working in Oceania, from Africa in Asia, and so on. It is great to experience the Spirit at work in some many places in so many different ways.

A story to share with you from Propagation of the Faith

In 2003 Catholic Mission provided \$367,656 to the Solomon Islands to help communities by training and paying local teachers, repairing accommodation, building community centres, providing teaching materials, books, stationery and transport, and reconstructing education facilities.

An Australian doctor Chris Millar, from Newcastle, is working in Choiseul in the north of the Solomon Islands. He is a global mission participant with PALMS Australia and with the help of Catholic Mission was able to take three shipping containers of medical supplies and equipment, as well as books, manual sewing machines and other practical items with him from Australia. A new hospital is being built to help house and utilise the equipment that was donated, which will provide medical services to around 20,000 people that were previously only available in Gizo or Honiara, some six to eight hours away by boat.



Fostering local church leadership...

assisting the training of local priests, religious, lay leaders and catechists as servants of their people.

St Peter Apostle

2003 was a difficult year for St Peter Apostle Society in meeting the needs of diocesan seminaries in the young churches. For the first time in many years, no building projects or maintenance projects could be carried out. The funds available for distribution were not even sufficient to meet the existing level of support that is given on a per capita basis for each seminarian and first year novice.

In some ways we are the victims of our own success. The rise in numbers for priestly and religious vocations increases the demand for support. The meeting of National Directors resolved to lower the per capita grant for each group (Novices, Minor Seminarians, Propaedeutic Seminarians [i.e. those who need updating on language or studies before entering the Major Seminary], Major Seminarians), except for those who were being supported to take on further studies in their home Institutes rather than in Rome.

And so we were asked to send the monies raised in Australia to the following places:

Rwanda	Supporting 1,481 seminarians in 8 colleges	\$224,168
Uganda	Supporting 2,829 seminarians in 18 colleges	\$448,178
Sri Lanka	Supporting 542 seminarians in 10 colleges	\$84,865
Papua New Guinea	Supporting 286 seminarians in 5 colleges	\$268,294

Seminarian Supporter Programme

To increase the level of support from Australia, during 2003 we explored the possibility of setting up a Seminarian Supporter Programme similar to that in operation in England and Wales. Support for the idea was gained from the General Secretary of St Peter Apostle in Rome, Mgr Jose Galvez, with the guarantee that we would be given each year the Major Seminarians in Bomana and Rabaul, PNG, as the destination of our fundraising efforts. In time we hope to expand this to Oceania and beyond and then to the Novices in formation in these countries.

Already a good number of people have responded with both interest and commitment to the programme. Each person or group commits themselves to giving \$1,500 each year for the last three years of a seminarian's study and formation for priesthood. Donors are able, if they so desire, to correspond with the seminarians. In turn, those seminarians will share their stories and progress with the donors.

A story to share with you from St Peter Apostle

Former Branxton local Graham Andrews is currently teaching at the Good Shepherd College Seminary in Fatima, situated in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea, his second stint as a lay missionary for PALMS, with the support of Catholic Mission.

Graham teaches his classes in English, but he can also speak the local common language Tok Pisin. He says he has encountered no problems living in a foreign land and he loves the culture of Papua New Guinea.

"Wherever we are, in whatever country, in whatever field of work, and here in education training of seminarians for the priesthood, I think missionaries are all one, a unity, reaching out to others," said Graham. "I believe we all receive and we all give, receiving more than we give."

His main goal when he left Australia for Papua New Guinea was to continue to learn and to enjoy. "And that is what is happening," said Graham. "I am receiving more than I am giving. That is rewarding."





Encouraging children and adults to care for children...

through education, healthcare, shelter, and personal development programs. Catholic Mission also invites the wider community to support these children's initiatives.

Children's Mission

With the theme of "Peace for Life" in all the materials provided for schools as well as parishes, students learned about the needs of children for nutrition, healthcare, rehabilitation, education as well as the Good News so that they are better able to respond freely and fully to the love God has for all people, and especially for children. Those are the ones singled out by Jesus for special love, care, and protection. And we were charged by Jesus in strong terms to make sure that we do likewise.

Mission Week Activities & Fundraising

Children and teachers responded with their efforts not only to know but also to help those in greatest need. Especially during Mission Week they carried out fundraising activities and again wore armbands or headbands to express their understanding of the message "Peace for Life".

In Adelaide, 800 children gathered in the main city square to give out the armbands to passers-by and to release white doves into sky to call people's attention to the urgent needs of children in developing countries. The event gained good media exposure in South Australia.

In Sydney, Parramatta, and Broken Bay Dioceses, Catholic Mission personnel prepared a "Village Space" for children to enter. This was an interactive experiential learning activity during which true stories of peace and justice from around the world and Australia were told and responded to by the students.

Here are some of the letters I received from students:

"I strongly believe in what you are doing with peace for life more so than ever before. I used to think when my teacher talked about peace in religion that she meant things like war in Iraq. I realise now that there is little peace even in the playground at school".

Gerard

"I am grateful and very thankful that you have tried to spread Peace for Life throughout the world and I hope you will achieve it. I hope I'm very helpful by supporting the Catholic Mission in many ways."

Theresa

"I want to thank you greatly and let you know that I support you in everything you are doing for Catholic Mission. It is a brilliant idea to give suffering and needy children freedom and help. If you keep it up I reckon that peace will come and there will be Peace for Life!"

Kate

In addition to the efforts of children, adults also contribute through the Children's Mission Partners Programme. Concern for children is alive in all societies and people are always looking for and responsive to opportunities that enable them to reach out to the most vulnerable of all God's people. The number engaged in this programme of help increases daily through the promotion that is given in parishes and schools and through the free Community Service Announcements that are provided by the electronic and print media.

Letters of thanks, photos, and project reports come streaming in each week as those engaged in this wonderful work with children express their appreciation for the love and generosity of the children of Australia, their parents and families, and all those other adults who make this work of mission so successful.

A story to share with you from Children's Mission

Jyothi Balikabhavan is an orphanage in Pulongome, India, supported by Children's Mission for poor and orphaned girls in the area. It opened in 1994 with 15 girls and the number has now grown to 40 children. At the moment they do not have enough accommodation for all of them, and they need a study hall to be built.

At the home, the children's food, medical and education expenses are taken care of, as the majority of families are extremely poor and cannot afford to send their children to school. Most of the villagers are marginal farmers or daily wagers and barely earn enough to survive. The money provided by Catholic Mission helps to keep this important project running, and gives these girls the opportunity for an education, which they would never have had.



The Team



Diocesan Directors

Adelaide **James Evans**
Armidale **Bishop Luc Matthys**
Ballarat **Sr Kathleen Woodruff CSB**
Bathurst **Allan Fitzmaurice**
Brisbane **Brayden Argent (until Oct), Sr Mary Lowcock RSM**
Broken Bay **Fr Paul Finucane**
Broome **Fr Daniel Chama**
Bunbury **Lyn Carroll**
Cairns **Fr Patrick McKenna**
Canberra & Goulburn **Deacon Joseph Blackwell**
Darwin **Br Paul Macrossan CFC**
Geraldton **Monica Mullikin**
Hobart **Mary Donovan**
Lismore **John Rixon**
Maitland-Newcastle **Barry Irwin**
Melbourne **Fr Pat Harvey, CEO: Kevin Meese**
Parramatta **Deacon Robert Carroll**
Perth **Francis Leong**
Port Pirie **Fr John Stuart-James**
Rockhampton **Fr John Grace**
Sale **Susan Grout**
Sandhurst **Fr Romuald Hayes**
Sydney **Fr Terry Brady, CEO: Peter Brasher**
Toowoomba **Trevor Cavanagh**
Townsville **Margaret Cox**
Wagga Wagga **Patricia Meaker**
Wilcannia-Forbes **Vacant**
Wollongong **Mike Deasy**

National Office Staff

National Director **Fr Terry Bell**
Deputy National Director **Peter Gates**
Mission Education Officer **Patrick Fox**
Fundraising and Public Relations Officer **Danielle Achikian**
Fundraising and Public Relations Assistant **Anita Smith**
Office Manager **Margaret Lea**
Accountant **Sr Maureen Elliott FMM**
Administrative Assistant **Margaret Rooney**
Bequest Officer **Helen Brooks**
Mission Liaison Officer **Sr Helen Sullivan RSJ**
Fundraising and Public Relations Officer **Adrian Thompson**
Media Officer **Melissa Loughlin**
Web Officer **Annette Loughlin-Smith**
IT Support **Joseph Li**





Distribution of Funds

Propagation of the Faith

Papua New Guinea

Aitape	\$149,390
Alotau-Sideia	\$187,114
Bereina	\$95,053
Bougainville	\$86,468
Daru-Kiunga	\$129,202
Goroka	\$95,933
Kavieng	\$98,574
Kerema	\$99,894
Kundiawa	\$99,102
Lae	\$68,649
Madang	\$123,745
Mendi	\$107,199
Mount Hagen	\$118,466
Port Moresby	\$94,877
Rabaul	\$131,490
Vanimu	\$124,097
Wabag	\$93,821
Wewak	\$137,352
PNG Bishops' Conf.	\$14,082

Solomon Islands

Auki	\$70,410
Gizo	\$114,064
Honiara	\$183,182

Home Mission Fund

Armidale	\$5,000
Broome	\$800,000
Cairns	\$15,000
Darwin	\$238,000
Geraldton	\$98,500
Lismore	\$1,000
Port Pirie	\$30,000
Rockhampton	\$8,000
Toowoomba	\$8,000
Townsville	\$98,500
Wilcannia-Forbes	\$18,000
PALMS	\$20,000

Children's Mission

Burkina Faso	\$70,586
Egypt	\$87,132
Libya	\$14,082
Nigeria	\$135,539
Congo-Kinshasa	\$89,772
Senegal	\$64,249
Uganda	\$185,746
Ecuador	\$149,621
The Philippines	\$93,441
India	\$256,640
Myanmar	\$129,378
Ukraine	\$14,082

2003 Funds Raised by Diocese

Adelaide	\$167,655
Armidale	\$44,150
Ballarat	\$87,355
Bathurst	\$125,783
Brisbane	\$668,608
Broken Bay	\$419,747
Broome	\$5,888
Bunbury	\$143,341
Cairns	\$83,693
Canberra & Goulburn	\$256,609
Darwin	\$37,930
Geraldton	\$20,979
Hobart	\$30,004
Lismore	\$122,611
Maitland-Newcastle	\$321,842
Melbourne	\$1,892,803
Parramatta	\$333,707
Perth	\$664,965
Port Pirie	\$92,281
Rockhampton	\$81,625
Sale	\$95,860
Sandhurst	\$105,121
Sydney	\$1,306,217
Toowoomba	\$70,831
Townsville	\$48,116
Wagga Wagga	\$82,931
Wilcannia-Forbes	\$9,536
Wollongong	\$434,981
TOTAL	\$7,755,167

National Office

PO Box 1061
Chatswood NSW 2057

Phone: 02 9411 4611
Fax: 02 9411 4622
Freecall 1800 257 296

Website: www.catholicmission.org.au
Email: admin@catholicmission.org.au

ABN: 52 945 927 066

