



Annual Report

04

Cardinal Wamala

Cardinal Wamala was a welcome visitor to Australia during 2004. Shortly after arriving in Australia he launched World Mission Day and Mission Month at a function in the Campbelltown Catholic Club. The Bishop of Wollongong, Bishop Peter Ingham, and the Diocesan Director, Mike Deasy, were most welcoming and helpful in ensuring that the first national launch was a success.

The theme of this year's campaign was "Life for All". His Eminence informed us of the work of the Church in Uganda and of the needs felt not only by his own country but also by the missionary Church at large. He expressed the appreciation of all for the support that the Australian Church gave in such generous fashion over many years.

During his time in Australia, Cardinal Wamala preached Propagation of the Faith Appeals, visited schools and parishes, took part in meetings of clergy, spoke with seminarians, and on a lighter note was able to attend the Rugby League Grand Final and catch up with classmates from his time as a student in Rome and with friends from the past.

He spent time in the Diocese of Wollongong, and the Archdioceses of Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne. His final appearance was in the Diocese of Parramatta where he concelebrated with Bishop Manning and captured the minds and hearts of the children at the Annual Children's Mission Mass as he spoke of the children and people of Uganda. The respective Archbishops and Bishops were most welcoming and extended hospitality to his Eminence.

All were impressed by his quiet, unassuming, and prayerful presence. He showed a quick wit and wonderful sense of humour. He quickly grasped the local idiom and dialogue and had a marvellous memory for details and the things people shared with him.

We thank him for his presence and assure him of our prayers and support.



Director's Message

01

Dear Friends of Mission,

Once again it is good to greet and thank you for the wonderful support that has been given to Catholic Mission over the past 12 months. It has been a remarkable year in terms of results both in animation, education, and mission awareness of Catholic people in Australia and in the fruits of their generosity.

So first thanks must go to those in National Office and the Diocesan Directors and their staffs for the excellent work that they have carried out in this most important task of informing the People of God about the missionary work of the Church and, therefore, promoting a universal missionary spirit in their hearts.

Integrally linked with these efforts is the response of our donors who have heard the cry of the poor and have generously supported our work with communities, with children, and with the formation of those who feel called to serve the Church as Catechists, Priests, or in Consecrated Life. In this way the mission of Jesus is made present in all the corners of the earth.

Pope John Paul II was very strong in his support for the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies (known, as you are aware, in Australia, as Catholic Mission) which he recognised as vital to the work of the Church in the developing world and of great importance in the developed world as together we addressed the whole question of re-evangelisation.

This appreciation he expressed in his message for World Mission Sunday in 2004 when he wrote: "This is also a good opportunity to mention the contribution offered to the Church's apostolic activity by the worthy Pontifical Mission Societies. They are very dear to my heart and I thank them, on behalf of all, for the valid service rendered to new evangelisation and the mission ad gentes. I ask you to support them spiritually and materially so that also through their contribution, the proclamation of the Gospel may reach all the peoples of the earth."

And so, as you read this report I hope that you will take up his challenge to continue that support with the generosity of your prayers and contributions. I thank you all again. You are the stuff of legends when stories are told in the years to come.

Yours sincerely in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Deasy".

National Director



"He expressed the appreciation of all for the support that the Australian Church gave in such generous fashion over many years."

Propagation of the Faith

The theme for the Propagation of the Faith Appeals was "Mi bilong yu, Yu bilong mi – In trust and love". The theme was derived from a Papuan New Guinean phrase in Pidgin which emphasises the interconnectedness of peoples and our dependence upon each other. It also recognised that we have much to receive from as well as much to give to our brothers and sisters in Papua New Guinea. The focus of missionary work in PNG was on the catechists, their importance and necessity. The story of a particular catechist, James Guandi, was highlighted.

To this were linked words of St Therese of Lisieux – "In Trust and Love". With St Therese we affirm our trust that the missionary work of the Church will not only continue but will flourish through the generous and loving support of Catholics everywhere.

World Mission Day

The theme for World Mission Sunday was "Life for All". It comes out of our Vision and Mission Statements and in particular from John 10:10b. The theme was also able to build on the thoughts of Pope John Paul II in his message for World Mission Day and his focus on the beginning of the Year of the Eucharist. Once again our link with Papua New Guinea was able to be celebrated as we dreamed with them a vision of a time and place where people are able to grow in faith and holiness, where family life, youth, justice and peace, health care especially for the HIV-AIDS victims, and education are made available to all so that the fullness of life is possible, not only in eternity but even now as the Kingdom of God is made present and proclaimed.

On World Mission Sunday and during Mission Week, people were asked to wear "Life For All" stickers. These became a talking point as people were asked what it was all about. In the parishes, people engaged in a trial discussion program. This was done in preparation for a three-week program for 2005 when the focus will be on the celebration of the anniversary of Evangelii Nuntiandi. To assist in the discussions, a 10-minute documentary 'Celebrate Life – In the Streets of Brazil' was produced and made available. At this time also we launched the new face of Catholic Mission on the web. Last year, we invited people to send messages of peace to one another. This year, they were invited to take part in a "Life for All" E-chain – an effort in standing in solidarity with another who is suffering from isolation, being marginalised, or lacking a dignified life.

Children's Mission

The work among the students in our Catholic School System continued throughout the year. A pilot program was put in place to cover the Sydney region and the neighbouring dioceses of Wollongong and Canberra-Goulburn. This involved the use of our education staff working with a select group of teachers in each diocese so that they would be the principal animators of fellow teachers and students. Diocesan Directors and Catholic Education staff were very happy with the results.

The fundraising efforts of the students continue to grow each year. It is a very competitive field to be working in with many demands being made by worthwhile charities for the interest, education and support of schools.

Children's Mission Partners continues to grow each year with more and more people both aware of the plight of children in developing countries and ready to help with regular contributions.

St Peter Apostle

On the one hand we are struggling to gain new supporters of the Society which is so necessary for the formation and education of men and women in the service of the Church. And yet those who do give are the most generous of our supporters across the three Societies. The ever-increasing number of students for the priesthood and novices for consecrated life are a great problem for us to have for the needs of the People of God grow every day both in mission areas and in the developed world. Many of the older churches are now benefiting from the abundance present in the young churches.

GIG

The program of immersion in the reality of mission life and activities continues to be appreciated as a valuable experience for people, especially teachers in our Catholic Schools. Catholic Education Office Directors have committed themselves to providing this opportunity for a small group of teachers each year. Those who have participated have not only enjoyed the experience but have found it most useful for their personal and professional lives. Currently the programs have been located in Fiji. The intention is to include Papua New Guinea and East Timor as destinations.

Home Mission Fund

An important role for Catholic Mission in Australia is the support of the Home Mission Fund. One third of the Propagation of the Faith contributions is placed at the disposal of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference for the support of the remote and sparsely populated dioceses of the country and for those works which are associated with the pastoral care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is good to report that the largest amount ever was placed at the disposal of the Bishops for distribution in 2005.

Seminarian Supporters' Program

The program commenced in 2003 and continued to grow during 2004 with many more taking up the idea of playing a personal role in the support of students for the priesthood in mission areas. The particular focus of the contact with such seminarians is through Holy Spirit Seminary in the Archdiocese of Port Moresby and Sacred Heart Seminary in the Archdiocese of Rabaul, both in Papua New Guinea. Through the cooperation of the Rectors of both seminaries, students have willingly shared their hopes and life with our generous supporters. Over the past three years of their preparation for Priesthood, students and donors correspond via the Rectors and the National Office. When the number of donors exceeds the number of students available, we will branch out to the Major Seminary in Fiji and the new Seminary in the Solomon Islands.

Education

Catholic Mission plays an important role in the life of the Church in Australia in keeping alive a strong spirit of mission not only through the support it gives to others but also in the programs offered for both adults and children that help each to grow in the understanding of the call given to us in Baptism. A lot of our work with adults centres on the in-service training given to teachers and the accreditation accorded to them for their participation and completion of the courses offered. In addition this year we piloted a study program for parish communities as mentioned above during Mission Month.

The education resources offered to schools received great praise from teachers. These were made available on the website for downloading and, because of this, could be accessed and used at any time during the year.

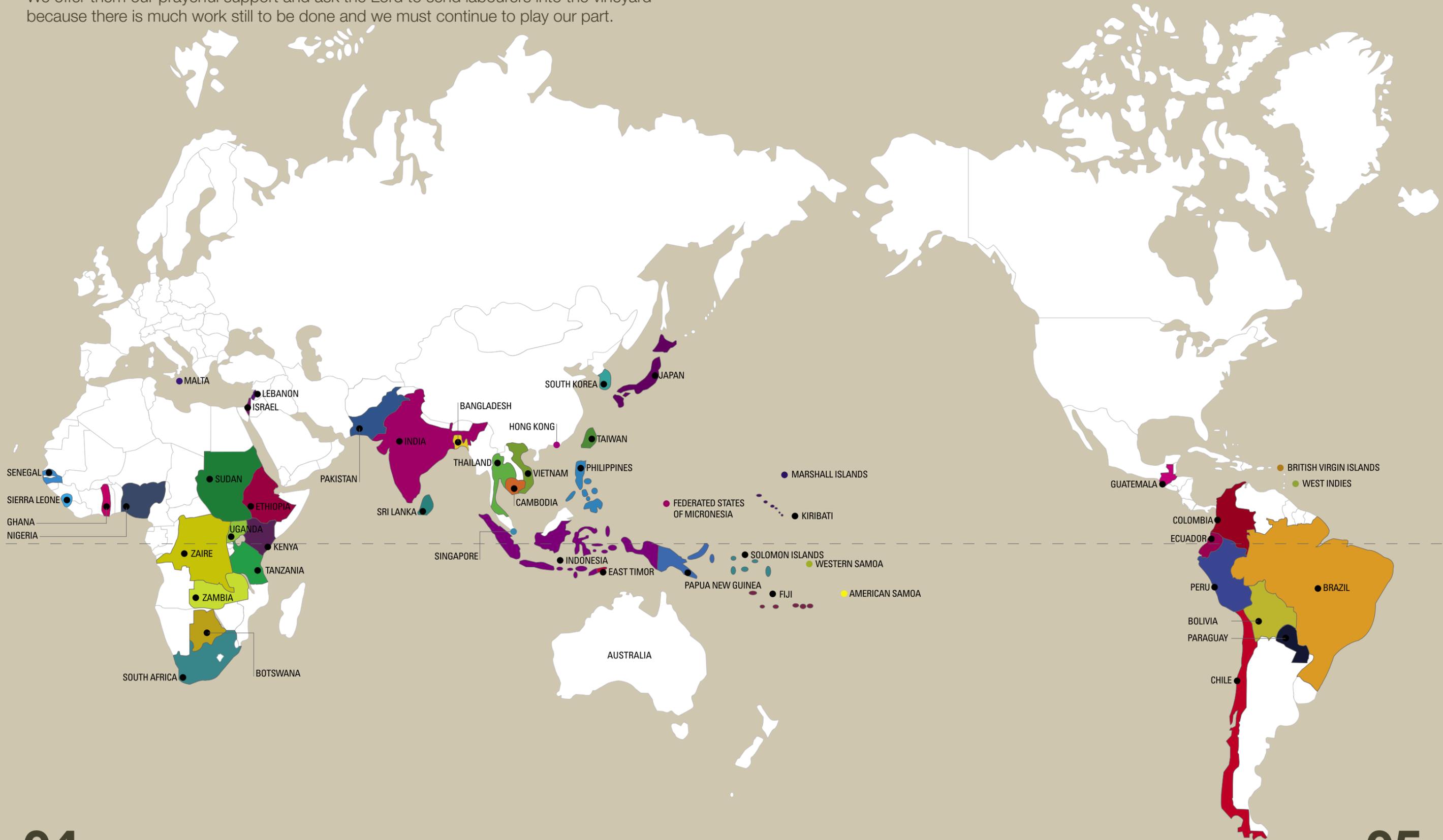


"It has been a remarkable year in terms of results both in animation, education, and mission awareness of Catholic people in Australia and in the fruits of their generosity."



Where Australian Missionaries are present!

While Catholic Mission, together with its International Partners, is engaged in 160 countries, Australian Missionaries have been at work in some of those countries in the developing world (highlighted on the map). We salute their courageous and self-sacrificing efforts. We offer them our prayerful support and ask the Lord to send labourers into the vineyard because there is much work still to be done and we must continue to play our part.



Website – launch of revamped site

Of particular note was the launch of the Catholic Mission Website. Through the excellent talents of Annette Loughlin-Smith, the whole presentation of Catholic Mission was revamped and provided not just with a new look but as a site that was easier to navigate, with more information and resources, and with latest news available on a daily basis.

Centralisation

At the beginning of the year, the first concrete steps towards centralising the database took place. The Parramatta database and then gradually over the next six months the data of 19 other dioceses were taken on board. The progress has not been without its difficulties. The writing of protocols and the revision of the same have been the occasion of much anxiety, with plenty of blood, sweat and tears. By the end of the year, work was progressing smoothly. The data entry premises were set up, staff had been engaged, and the advantages of early reporting about individual programs were being seen on a daily basis. Most importantly, the cost savings are beginning to be seen. The good results for 2004 may not be able to be attributed solely to centralisation but they have been part of the success of the year.

Bequest Program – Fellowship of St Therese

During the year, Helen Brooks was engaged as our Bequest Officer with the commission to set up a bequest program on a much more professional basis than just the hope of getting bequests. Her work has been monitored by and received input from Evelyn Mason & Associates. As a result the number of known bequests has risen considerably. Those who have informed us of their desires for the distribution of their assets after death have been invited to belong to the ‘Fellowship of St Therese of Lisieux’. Each year, on or about the Feast of St Therese, these members are invited to gather for the celebration of Mass. In 2004, Cardinal Wamala, Archbishop of Kampala, Uganda, was the Principal Celebrant. It turned out to be a great day of prayer and celebration.

National Council

In addition to the regular meetings, the July meeting was given over largely to a facilitated process through which the Council members explored both the collective and individual responsibilities of each member. Out of this exercise there grew a document which informs all within Catholic Mission and, in particular those invited to come on to the Council, what can be expected of them and how the Council operates. It has already helped new members to have a better understanding of what they are committing themselves to when they accept the National Director’s invitation.

Nuncio

During the year, the Apostolic Nuncio in Australia, His Excellency Most Reverend Francesco Canalini ended his term here with a new appointment as the Nuncio for Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Catholic Mission appreciated the support and interest he showed the Pontifical Mission Societies not only in Australia but also in his appointments elsewhere. We are particularly grateful for the warm welcome he gave to Fr Patrick Byrne SVD, the General Secretary of Missionary Childhood at the time of his visit and participation in the National Conference of Catholic Mission. We were very grateful for his blessing and opening of the new premises for the National Office in 2003.

Diocesan Directors

Around the country the Diocesan Directors continued to play their important role in each diocese in keeping alive in the minds and hearts of the faithful the awareness of the missionary work of the Church and of the responsibility of each of the Baptised to be actively engaged in the mission of Christ and his Church.

In different ways and using their individual gifts and talents, they engaged bishops, priests, and people in the support of all the appeals for mission that take place each year. It is very much due to their hard work and enthusiasm that we had our most successful year ever.

During the year four Diocesan Directors retired – John Rixon (Lismore), Deacon Robert Carroll (Parramatta), Margaret Cox (Townsville), and Allan Fitzmaurice (Bathurst). I am grateful to each of them for the time, energy, and love they put into their work for Catholic Mission. Margaret Cox deserves special mention as the longest serving Director in the country.

In their places these have been appointed: Glenn Smith (Bathurst), John Griffiths (Lismore), Phillip Baker (Parramatta), and Marie Aitken (Townsville).

Statutes

The meetings concerned with the updating of the Statutes as requested by Pope John Paul II continued throughout the year. There was input from the Episcopal Conferences around the world and from National Directors. The hope is that the revised statutes will be promulgated at the May 2005 meeting of National Directors which will take place in Lyon, France, where Pauline Jaricot founded the Propagation of the Faith 182 years ago. To coincide with the Annual Meeting, the recently restored home of Pauline will be opened as a place of pilgrimage and prayer for her recognition by the Church as numbered among the saints.

Countries assisted

Each year the special association with Papua New Guinea and surroundings is recognised and most of our Propagation of the Faith funds are directed towards the support of local communities in the dioceses of PNG and Solomon Islands. My visit to PNG in July 2004 gave me the opportunity to see the Church at work in its General Assembly with its formulation of Vision and Mission Statements for the whole Church in PNG. I was also able to visit Port Moresby and the dioceses along the northern coast where the knowledge of Christ was first brought by the missionaries in 1896. While the country still has many social problems, the vitality and strength of the Faith was wonderful to experience in the liturgies, gatherings, and work of the people.

Other Pacific Island Churches assisted were Tarawa-Nauru, Tonga and Noumea. For the first time we also sent funds to member countries of the former Soviet Union – Kyrgystan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. All recipients were greatly appreciative of the faith and generosity of the people of Australia.

The funds of Children’s Mission, which is raised through schools and the Children’s Mission Partners Program, were directed towards the Church’s work with children in a wide range of countries – Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Lesotho, Madagascar, Congo-Kinshasa, Tanzania (AFRICA); Colombia and Haiti (AMERICAS); India, Indonesia, Iraq (ASIA); and Albania (EUROPE).

The funds raised by St Peter Apostle for the education and formation of students for the Priesthood and for those doing their Novitiate for Consecrated Life in one of the Religious Congregations were again sent to Seminaries in Rwanda, Uganda, Sri Lanka and Papua New Guinea.



“It is very much due to their hard work and enthusiasm that we had our most successful year ever.”

Diocesan Directors

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Adelaide | James Evans |
| Armidale | Bishop Luc Matthys |
| Ballarat | Sr Kathleen Woodruff CSB |
| Bathurst | Glenn Smith |
| Brisbane | Sr Mary Lowcock RSM |
| Broken Bay | Fr Paul Finucane |
| Broome | Fr Daniel Charma |
| 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 Griffiths |
| Maitland-Newcastle | Barry Irwin |
| Melbourne | Fr Patrick Harvey CEO: Kevin Meese |
| Parramatta | Phillip Baker |
| 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 (until November) Marie Aitken |
| Wagga Wagga | Patricia Meaker |
| Wilcannia-Forbes | Murray Field |
| Wollongong | Mike Deasy |

National Office Staff

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| National Director | Fr Terry Bell |
| Deputy National Director | Peter Gates |
| Office Manager | Margaret Lea |
| Administrative Assistant | Margaret Rooney |
| Mission Education Officer | Patrick Fox |
| Fundraising & Public Relations Officer | Danielle Achikian |
| Fundraising & Public Relations Assistant | Anita Smith (until June) Carmel Taffa (from November) |
| Accountant | Sr Maureen Elliott FMM |
| Database Officer | Maria Dinnison |
| Database Assistants | Karina Quinlan Lenny Chandra Bernadette Rubio Celina Speers Helen Brooks |
| Bequest Officer | Sr Helen Sullivan RSJ |
| Mission Liaison Officer | Adrian Thompson |
| Fundraising & Public Relations Officer | Melissa Loughlin (until September) Terri Cowley (from September) |
| Media Officer | Annette Loughlin-Smith |
| Web Officer | |

Distribution of 2003 Funds

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|---|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Propagation of the Faith | | | |
| Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands | \$1,998,182 | St Peter Apostle | |
| Tarawa-Nauru | \$96,036 | Rwanda | \$272,057 |
| Tonga | \$132,219 | Sri Lanka | \$68,014 |
| Noumea | \$155,399 | Uganda | \$136,028 |
| Kyrgystan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan | \$314,985 | Papua New Guinea | \$79,739 |
| Home Mission Fund Distribution | | Funds Received in 2004 | |
| Armidale | \$6,000 | Adelaide | \$248,304 |
| Broome | \$800,000 | Armidale | \$38,847 |
| Cairns | \$18,000 | Ballarat | \$94,657 |
| Darwin | \$238,000 | Bathurst | \$72,641 |
| Geraldton | \$99,000 | Brisbane | \$1,295,261 |
| Port Pirie | \$31,000 | Broken Bay | \$544,119 |
| Rockhampton | \$13,910 | Broome | \$4,559 |
| Sale | \$6,000 | Bunbury | \$131,540 |
| Toowoomba | \$7,000 | Cairns | \$81,651 |
| Townsville | \$99,000 | Canberra & Goulburn | \$277,991 |
| Wilcannia-Forbes | \$21,000 | Darwin | \$28,320 |
| PALMS | \$22,000 | Geraldton | \$24,217 |
| Children's Mission | | Hobart | \$24,705 |
| Ghana | \$130,315 | Lismore | \$106,432 |
| Haiti | \$92,431 | Maitland-Newcastle | \$345,919 |
| Cameroon | \$111,656 | Melbourne | \$2,311,274 |
| India | \$385,892 | Parramatta | \$324,787 |
| South Africa & Lesotho | \$109,266 | Perth | \$673,881 |
| Kenya | \$102,157 | Port Pirie | \$73,175 |
| Madagascar | \$90,935 | Rockhampton | \$96,035 |
| Tanzania | \$94,825 | Sale | \$63,609 |
| Colombia | \$61,381 | Sandhurst | \$106,584 |
| Congo-Kinshasa | \$68,830 | Sydney | \$1,674,840 |
| Indonesia | \$96,729 | Toowoomba | \$64,819 |
| Iraq | \$26,934 | Townsville | \$26,735 |
| Albania | \$102,497 | Wagga Wagga | \$81,932 |
| | | Wilcannia-Forbes | \$10,618 |
| | | Wollongong | \$408,153 |



“The good results for 2004 may not be able to be attributed solely to centralisation but they have been part of the success of the year.”



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

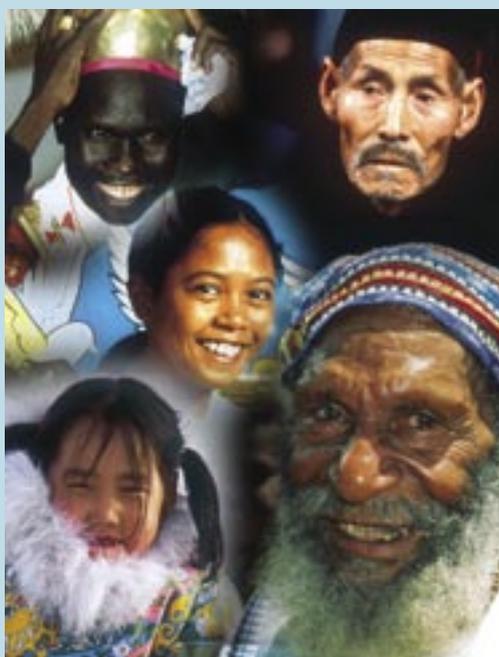
Engaging Australians in global mission

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.*