**December 18, 2006**

**Fr Frank Devoy reappointed executive director of Australian Council for Clergy Life and Ministry**

Fr Francis Devoy has been appointed the executive director of the Australian Council for Clergy Life and Ministry for a three year term from 2007 to the end of 2009.

Chairman of the Bishops Commission for Church Ministry, Bishop Michael Malone said that Fr Devoy would complete his secondment in December and this appointment would extend his term for a further three years.

"I am delighted to announce that Fr Devoy will continue in this very important ministry in which he is engaged in looking after the welfare of clergy in Australia," Bishop Malone said.

"I am also grateful to Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett, the Bishop of Lismore, for making Fr Devoy available to carry out this work for a further three years."

Fr Devoy was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Lismore in 1967, serving first as assistant priest at Mullumbimby and then for 15 years as Director of Education for the diocese. He was later appointed as Bishop's Secretary and Chancellor and more recently was Parish Priest at Grafton and at Bangalow/Byron.

In 1978, Fr Devoy earned a Masters in the School of Education at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC and in 1989 he gained his Doctorate from Columbia University on the Anthropological Foundation of Family.

He said he was looking forward to continuing his work with the Australian Council for Clergy Life and Ministry.

"I really want to pay tribute to my predecessors, Fr Peter Brock and Fr John Riley SJ," he said. "They travelled the length and breadth of this country and there is plenty of evidence of their fine work with clergy across the country. I'm looking forward to continuing this work with bishops, priests and deacons."

The National Commission for Clergy Life and Ministry (now known as the Australian Council for Clergy Life and Ministry) was set up by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in 1992 to provide ongoing education and formation for clergy, as well as support, care and personal and spiritual development.

It takes its charter from *Pastores Dabo Vobis* in which Pope John Paul II wrote of the "human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral" formation of the clergy.

For more information on the Australian Council for Clergy Life and Ministry, visit www.auspriest.org.