Australian Bishops to attend the Apostolic Exhortation Ecclesia in Oceania to be promulgated in Rome

Four Australian bishops have been invited to attend Pope John Paul II's promulgation of the post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation "Ecclesia in Oceania" in Rome.

The promulgation will take place during a private audience at 11.30 AM on Thursday, 22 November, in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace.

Archbishop Barry Hickey, of Perth, and Bishop Michael Putney, of Townsville, who are members of the Post-Synodal Council for Oceania of the General Secretariat, as well as Bishop John Gerry, Auxiliary of Brisbane, who is a member of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO) will attend. Bishop Peter Connors, of Ballarat, was invited but is unable to attend.

Others attending will include officials of the Roman Curia, and the President of the FCBCO, Bishop Soane Foliaki SM, (CEPAC). It is expected that Australian priests and seminarians currently in Rome will attend as well as other Bishops from Australia who will be in Rome on that date.

Archbishop Hickey said "It was a privilege to serve on the Post-Synodal Council. We worked hard and effectively, so we look forward to the Promulgation which will be a source of inspiration and challenge for the Church in Oceania".

Bishop Putney stated "It was a privileged task to try to incorporate all the insights of the Synod into a document for the consideration of the Holy Father. I am sure his response to the work of the Synod will give the Church in Australia great encouragement at the beginning of the new millennium."

St Paul Publications will print the Apostolic Exhortation as soon as possible after 22 November.

For further comment please contact: Archbishop Hickey on (08) 9223 1351