



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Media Release - February 15, 2008

Archbishop Wilson meets Vatican officials in Rome

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President, Archbishop Philip Wilson has recently returned from Rome where he met with a range of Vatican officials and dicasteries.

Archbishop Wilson, who was accompanied by ACBC General-Secretary, Fr Brian Lucas, had 39 meetings with various officials of the Holy See during the two-week visit.

“The meetings were very fruitful and informative,” Archbishop Wilson said.

“We were very warmly welcomed by all of the Vatican officials”.

The visit was a result of a motion passed by the Bishops at their November Plenary meeting that the President of Conference and the General-Secretary should visit the Holy See on an annual basis, except in years where an Ad Limina visit is to be held.

Archbishop Wilson said it is important that there be close collaboration between the local church in Australia and the various Vatican offices.

“We gain from the international perspective they can offer and they hear first-hand about the situation in Australia,” he said

During the visit Archbishop Wilson and Fr Lucas had the opportunity to join about 30 Australian lay, clergy and religious working in Rome as well as, Anne Giles, the Charge d’Affaires of the Australian Embassy to the Holy See for Mass and lunch to celebrate Australia Day.



Photo caption: ACBC President Archbishop Philip Wilson with the Vatican’s Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone.