



**Media Release
October 11, 2007**

ACBC President expresses sadness at death of Apostolic Nuncio

The President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Philip Wilson today expressed great sadness at the death of the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, Archbishop Ambrose De Paoli.

Archbishop De Paoli, who had been diagnosed with Leukaemia in 2005, died at Mt Sinai Hospital, Miami Beach in the United States on Wednesday evening Australian time. He was 73.

He had returned to the United States, to the Archdiocese where he was incardinated, on doctors' advice some weeks ago, and died peacefully after farewelling family and having received the last rites by a priest of the Archdiocese.

In a letter of condolence to the Vatican's Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Archbishop Wilson said that all the bishops of Australia had very much come to appreciate the care and dedication with which he carried out his mission from the Holy See in Australia.

"During His Excellency's relatively short time with us, we were touched by the humble and gracious way that he dealt with bishops, priests and all the people with whom he had contact," Archbishop Wilson said.

"Archbishop De Paoli's personable and friendly demeanour allowed him to mix easily with those he met at the many and varied functions and activities he attended which make up Catholic life in Australia.

"Above all, his love and fidelity for Jesus Christ and the Church, and his loyal service to the Holy Father was always most evident."

Various individual Masses will be held around Australia for the repose of Archbishop De Paoli's soul in coming days.

A Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass will be held next Wednesday, October 17 at St Christopher's Cathedral, Canberra. The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge and the Charge D'Affaires at the Apostolic Nunciature, Monsignor Jude Okolo will preach. The Mass will be attended by representatives of the Diplomatic Corps.

In addition, the bishops, when gathered together in Sydney for their Plenary Meeting next month will offer Mass for the repose of Archbishop De Paoli's soul.

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