



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Media Release

May 8, 2008

Archbishop Philip Wilson re-elected ACBC President

Archbishop Philip Wilson was re-elected as President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference during the ACBC Plenary Meeting which concluded in Sydney today.

Archbishop Wilson, who is the Archbishop of Adelaide, was first elected ACBC President in May 2006. This week, his fellow Bishops elected him for a second two-year term.

Archbishop Barry Hickey of Perth was re-elected as Vice President of Conference, also for a second two-year term.

Archbishop Wilson thanked the Bishops for the confidence they had shown in him.

“I am honoured and humbled to have been re-elected as President of the ACBC and am very much looking forward to continuing to serve the Church in Australia in this capacity,” he said.

During their meeting, the Bishops endorsed the planning being undertaken for the World Youth Day celebration in Sydney in July.

They also approved a major new pastoral strategy to reach out to Catholics who no longer practice their faith and to those Catholics who never really connected with the Church.

The strategy will include a pastoral letter to parishes, urging them to become places of welcome, as well as a six-week program entitled ‘Reconnect’ to help equip parishes and individuals to reach out and invite people back to the practice of their faith. There is also a similar program aimed at young people who may be seeking to connect with parish life in the wake of World Youth Day.

A national advertising campaign from the Bishops, inviting Catholics to reconnect with the Church community will also form an important part of the strategy.

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