



April 3, 2005

**A statement from Archbishop Francis Carroll on the death
of Pope John Paul II**

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President, Archbishop Francis Carroll said he was deeply saddened by the death of Pope John Paul II.

Archbishop Carroll said that Pope John Paul was a much loved leader of the Church who leaves an extraordinary legacy.

He is also widely recognised as having played an important role in shaping world events during his long Pontificate, particularly in relation to the fall of Eastern bloc Communism.

“The recent intense focus on his declining health served to illustrate the place he held in the life of the world,” Archbishop Carroll said.

“Pope John Paul II took the Papacy to the people, becoming the most travelled Pope in history and millions of Catholics around the world will today be mourning the death of their spiritual leader, the successor to the Apostle Peter.

“I ask all Catholics to join me in praying for the repose of the Pope’s soul and to pray for the Church as it goes through this period of sadness and begins to prepare for a new Pontificate.”

NOTE TO EDITORS: Archbishop Carroll will be available to speak to the media at 12.15pm today on the steps of St Christopher’s Cathedral, Franklin Street, Forrest, ACT.

Contact: Debra Vermeer at the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on 0414 880 475.