

18th August, 2017

AUSTRALIA'S CATHOLICS RESPOND GENEROUSLY TO GLOBAL POVERTY

Thousands of generous supporters, including generous individuals, school children and parishes across the country, have joined in solidarity with the world's poor, donating \$11 million to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Lenten campaign.

Held annually over the six weeks of Lent, Project Compassion seeks to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity and this year took on the theme of "Love your Neighbour."

Project Compassion is one of Australia's largest humanitarian fundraising and awareness raising campaigns.

Caritas Australia CEO, Paul O'Callaghan said that he had been overwhelmed by the generous response to this year's appeal from supporters in every Australian state and territory.

"Project Compassion is an ongoing demonstration of faith and generosity that has enabled Caritas Australia to help millions of people to change their lives," Mr O'Callaghan said.

"This money will ensure that Caritas can continue to work with those most marginalised in more than 29 countries globally, across Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific, and with Australia's First Peoples."

Through this year's Project Compassion theme of "Love your Neighbour," Caritas Australia sought to highlight the impact of working in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities to alleviate poverty.

In 2017, Caritas shared six inspiring stories from the Philippines, Timor Leste, Australia, Vietnam and Fiji.

A video of Caritas Australia CEO, Paul O'Callaghan thanking supporters for their efforts during Project Compassion 2017 is available to view and download by visiting: <https://vimeo.com/228763699>

To learn more about Caritas Australia and Project Compassion visit: www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

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