

MEDIA RELEASE



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Sir Peter Cosgrove talks exclusively about his regrets and reveals world leaders who inspired him

To mark one year since retiring as Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove has given a wide-ranging interview revealing his biggest regrets as well as his struggles with retirement.

In an in-depth interview with *The Catholic Weekly*, Australia's 26th Governor General also reveals the three world leaders who inspired him most during the top job.

The former Australian of the Year maintains a busy life of service as patron to more than 40 organisations, as well as being tasked with helping businesses recover following January's devastating bushfires and the current COVID-19 pandemic.

"These days I see myself as an agent of good will," he tells *The Catholic Weekly*. "Australian people cannot be restrained from their generosity, it's what I call 'muscular Christianity' - sleeves rolled up ready to help - and I want to be there to encourage that help.

"I always said I won't just be a name on a letterhead, I have to be able to contribute in some way."

The lovable larrikin, who came to the nations' consciousness as the Leader of INTERFET, the successful mission to restore peace to East Timor during its independence from Indonesia, also reflects on the high price he paid for a life in uniform by spending so much time away from his three sons.

"As Chief of the Defence Force, I was all defence personnel's father, although I have to admit I'm not sure it made me a better father to my boys because it took so much of my time", he tells *The Catholic Weekly*.

"They might have had a famous dad but I don't think I was the best dad I could have been.

"Looking forward, my wife Lynne and I want to do some overseas travel. I want to be a little less busy, so I'm much more available to my kids, their partners and wives and my grandchildren."

To read the article in full go to the digital edition of The Catholic Weekly which is available here: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/product/the-catholic-weekly-digital-edition/>

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