



For immediate release
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MEDIA RELEASE: Catholic Mission leads global discussion

A unique series of seminars hosted by Catholic Mission, in partnership with the Pontifical Mission Societies in Rome, aims to build a stronger international network, sharing resources and expertise to support the mission areas of the world.

Entitled *Church's Mission: Media Communication, Charity and Fundraising*, the seminars featured international experts and presentations from the Vatican's Dicastery for Social Communication, Radio Maria and Fides News Agency.

"While there were some logistical challenges, it was an opportunity to harness the power of collaboration", says Catholic Mission National Director, Fr Brian Lucas.

"It was a privilege to work closely with the authorities in Rome and in particular the contribution of Elena Grazini, from the PMS, and Simone Medri, from Catholic Mission, ensured the conference was well planned and ran smoothly," he added.

"There were 220 registrations, from 41 countries, spanning 18 time zones, giving a unique international experience" he says.

Across ten 90 minutes sessions over five days, the seminars focused on communications, charity, and fundraising in a digital environment.

Fr Fabrizio Meroni, Secretary General of the Pontifical Mission Union, the body responsible for missionary formation in the PMS, responded to the challenge presented by COVID-19 and replaced what was to be a traditional conference with the digital format.

"The Pontifical Mission Societies walk with the local church in the mission territories with a particular emphasis on their pastoral outreach", Fr Brian says.

"The support of the PMS solidarity fund is often critical for the survival of churches in areas of persecution and deprivation."

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About Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies – the Catholic Church's global organisation dedicated to continuing Jesus Christ's mission in the world: that all may have life to the full. Founded in Sydney in 1847, Catholic Mission contributes funding and project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America. These include spiritual formation, pastoral care, education, health, sanitation and agricultural programs. Here in Australia, we form people to go out and be missionary in their professional and personal lives; to pray, advocate and take action for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.