

From South Melbourne Classroom to Papal Approval: Young Aussie Student's Art Lands in Vatican

In an exciting development, a year 4 student from Melbourne's south has had his illustration published in a book and presented to Pope Francis.

Last year, students across Australia participated in a drawing contest to mark the 180th anniversary of the Society of the Holy Childhood, a historically constituent branch of Catholic Mission. The contest challenged students to express through their artwork how Pope Francis inspires children to help others. Out of 200 submissions, Peter's illustration, from Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School in South Melbourne, made the cut as Australia's winning entry.

Peter's winning illustration uses bubbles to depict the concepts of 'Hope, Teach, and Charity', representing Pope Francis's dynamic and inspirational approach towards encouraging children to take action and help other children. It was shortlisted among ten finalists and selected as the national winner by Fr Brian Lucas, Catholic Mission's National Director.

The book featuring Peter's illustration includes a compilation of selected entries from children across the globe. It was presented to the Pope in a celebration of the Society's milestone anniversary. The entries were predominantly centred around themes of care for Creation and the Common Home, reflecting Pope Francis and his *Laudato Si'* teachings.

"I am amazed to look at the creativity shown by the children and their personal understanding of what the Church is and how Pope Francis inspires them," says Fr Brian. "This book is such an inspiration and a source of hope, with numerous drawings reflecting key concepts of Catholic Social Teaching."

Integrated into Catholic Mission's school community engagement initiative, Socktober, the competition was useful in helping children learn about the importance of supporting others, while showcasing their talents. Matt Poynting, the program's coordinator, was delighted by the creativity and enthusiasm shown by the participating students in this complementary activity.

"Selecting a winner would not have been an easy feat in this competition, with so many students displaying wisdom and comprehension of big issues. We are proud that Peter's illustration represents the work of all the students and their passion for Mission at an early age," says Matt.

Overall, the global drawing competition proved successful, celebrating the creativity of children while cultivating an understanding of social responsibility. Catholic Mission offers hearty congratulations to all winners and participants, with a special acknowledgment to Peter for his remarkable achievement.

ENDS

For further information:

Astrid Delayre
Communications Officer

Tel: 0458 489 877

Email:

media@catholicmission.org.au

Website:

catholicmission.org.au

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. 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 act for those on the margins. Catholic Mission has offices in 27 Australian dioceses.