



*For immediate release*  
**Thursday, 7 September 2023**

## **Catholic Mission Launches World Mission Month 2023 Appeal Highlighting the Work of Salesian Sisters in Timor-Leste**

Catholic Mission is launching the celebration of World Mission Month 2023, focusing on Pope Francis' World Mission Sunday message, 'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'.

The October appeal highlights the burning passion that drives missionaries around the world to take action for a more just world.

Sr Carolina, who is the face of the awareness and fundraising campaign, is a great example of the devotion of missionaries, dedicating herself to providing critical healthcare services to the rural community of Venilale in Timor-Leste.

After decades of journeying with the Venilale community, Sr Carolina can summarise her understanding of Mission in a sentence: "Mission is where many people need you."

It is a simple philosophy honed through her years of service via the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic, which the Salesian Sisters opened in 1995 to provide urgent healthcare services to a community still bearing the scars of decades of unrest.

Most of the treatment at the centre focuses on tuberculosis and malnutrition, two life-threatening illnesses well known to the local community.

Throughout World Mission Month, Catholic Mission is sharing the success stories of beneficiaries of the clinic, like Vitoria. Diagnosed with tuberculosis at the age of 12, Vitoria travelled every day with her mother to the clinic to receive life-saving care and medication thanks to the Sisters.

The biggest celebration on Catholic Mission's calendar is about more than just the practical benefits of the projects it supports around the world. The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic, Sister Carolina and her superior, Sister Alma, have created not only a place of healing but a safe and welcoming environment where people are listened to.

"The people are welcome. The people feel at home. They can stay, they can talk about their own problems, not just sickness, and enter a deeper conversation. We spend time with them to explain things. In this way, the people feel important," says Sr Alma.

Through Catholic Mission, you are invited you to journey with Sr Carolina, and walk alongside the Salesian Sisters and the resilient community of Venilale. Parishes, schools, and supporters across Australia will be encouraged to provide resources for the Clinic to continue to provide life-giving services to the local community. You can contribute today at [www.catholicmission.org.au/carolina](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/carolina).

ENDS

**For further information:**

Astrid Delayre  
*Communications Officer*

**Tel:** 0458 489 877

**Email:**  
[media@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:media@catholicmission.org.au)

**Website:**  
[catholicmission.org.au](http://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.