



Message of the Holy Father for 70th Anniversary of CSSA

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV sends cordial greetings and the assurance of his spiritual closeness to all marking the seventieth anniversary of the founding of Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA), taking place on the 12 August 2026. His Holiness joins you in giving thanks to Almighty God for CSSA's witness to the Gospel and its positive contribution to Australian society over these years, and he prays that this occasion will inspire the staff, volunteers and supporters to renew their commitment to preaching the Good News of our salvation to all people, especially the marginalized and most in need of God's love. Indeed, being made in God's image, our inherent human dignity can often be hidden in those who are disenfranchised, vulnerable and disadvantaged, just as the divinity of our Lord was not immediately obvious to those he encountered. The Holy Father therefore invites those present to recall the words of Jesus who identified himself in a special way with those most in need, stating that "*as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me*" (cf. Mt 25:35-36). At the same time, he encourages your ongoing efforts to advocate for those without a voice, keeping in mind that "*the moral greatness of a nation is manifested, above all, in its capacity to accompany, protect and love those lives that are most fragile.*" (*Meeting with Members of the Spanish Parliament*, 8 June 2026). With the assurance of prayers that your work will bear lasting fruit for the Australian people, Pope Leo XIV imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a sign of joy and hope in the Lord.