



For immediate release
Monday 21 March 2022

CATHOLIC MISSION WELCOMES THE REFORMS OF THE ROMAN CURIA

Pope Francis, on the feast of Saint Joseph, after nine years of consultation on the reform of the Roman Curia, has released an apostolic constitution *Praedicate evangelium* (To preach the Gospel).

Fr Brian Lucas, National Director of Catholic Mission, has welcomed the document which is clearly focused on the missionary church at the service of the world.

“This consolidates so much of what Pope Francis has been saying about the call of all the baptised to missionary discipleship. He has put the Roman Curia at the service of the local churches in the work of evangelization.” he said

The Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization has been absorbed into the Dicastery for Evangelization which comprises two sections. The first deals with evangelization in general including catechetics. The second continues the work of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples with its responsibility for the missionary churches. The Pontifical Mission Societies continue to be part of that second section of the new dicastery.

The mandated five-year terms, with only a limited extension, will help address the problems of clerical careerism within the Curia. Fr Lucas welcomed the explicit acknowledgement by Pope Francis of the role of lay people at even the highest levels of the Curia.

“This important step should provide a model for lay participation all levels of the Church. It opens the way for lay women and men and to take significant leadership roles”, Fr Lucas said.

An ongoing challenge will be to ensure proper formation so that lay women and men have the opportunity to work collaboratively in church leadership.

Catholic Mission’s formation team are committed to assisting church entities fulfil their responsibilities to their staff to equip them to fully participate in the church’s mission.

ENDS

For further information:

John Hyde
Senior Communications Officer
Tel: 0419 997 857

Email:
media@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.