



Missionaries of God's Love

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Missionaries of God's Love (MGL) priests and brothers announce the election of Fr Stephen Fletcher MGL as their new Moderator.

Fr Fletcher is currently serving in the MGL's Seminary in Melbourne, and will take up the role of Moderator immediately.

The election of a new Moderator is a significant milestone in the history of the MGL's. This election marks the conclusion of the leadership of the MGL's founder, Fr Ken Barker. Fr Ken has served as Moderator since founding the Congregation in Canberra in 1986, and has been re-elected moderator for 2 consecutive terms since its recognition as a religious institute of diocesan rite in 2014 by the Holy See. According to the statutes of the MGL's a Moderator can only serve for two consecutive terms before a new Moderator must be elected.

Under Fr Ken's leadership the MGL has grown to 56 professed brothers, of whom 30 are priests. The MGL have formation houses in Canberra and Melbourne, and 6 mission centres across Australia, Philippines, and Indonesia.

Fr Ken has welcomed the election of Fr Fletcher saying "I am delighted at Steve's election. He is well suited for the role, having been my assistant for many years. He has a strong missionary vision and a gentle pastoral heart."

Fr Stephen indicated he was greatly humbled by the election by his brothers saying "Let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, be good stewards of the grace God has given us and continue to build on the good work already done"

The Missionaries of God's Love priest's and brothers ask you to pray for them and for their new leaders as they embark on this new chapter in the life of the congregation.

About Fr Stephen Fletcher

Born to Charlie and Gert Fletcher in Queanbeyan, Fr Fletcher attended St Edmunds College in Canberra, before studying for a law degree at the University of Canberra. Fr Fletcher then worked in a law firm in Canberra before entering formation and professing vows within the MGL's in 1989. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Francis Carroll on 8th December 1995 at St Christopher's Cathedral Canberra. Fr Fletcher spent the first nine years of his priestly ministry as chaplain for the St Martin de Porres urban aboriginal community in Darwin. He then spent a number of years in formation work both in Canberra and Melbourne. He then served for seven years in St Benedict's parish in Canberra and helped with the establishment of the Sydney mission at Peakhurst and Penshurst. More recently he has been acting as Rector of the MGL Seminary in Melbourne. Fr Stephen has always remained close to the Australian indigenous people, helping them to develop ministries in Darwin, Townsville and Palm Island.

About the Missionaries of God's Love

The Missionaries of God's Love is a congregation in the Catholic Church established in Canberra in 1986 by Fr Ken Barker MGL, responding to a prompting by the Holy Spirit to create a congregation of priests and brothers within the context of the Disciples of Jesus lay community.

The MGL's share a common life together, a commitment to contemplative prayer, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and charismatic worship. Under the grace of the new Pentecost experience they seek to bring the good news of God's love to all, especially to young people and the poor. The MGL sisters were established in 1988 under the same charism.

The MGL currently has 56 professed brothers, including 30 ordained priests and 3 deacons, and 20 brothers training for priesthood. They have another 23 young aspirants and postulants in various locations undertaking initial formation. The MGL priests and brothers have mission centres in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Darwin, Flores in Indonesia and Quezon city in the Philippines.

The MGL sisters have a formation house in Canberra and mission houses in Sydney and Melbourne. There are currently 16 sisters in vows.

MEDIA CONTACT: NAME PHONE NUMBER