

Welcome to this year's Appeal!

Appeal theme: "Be my Witness to the Ends of the Earth"

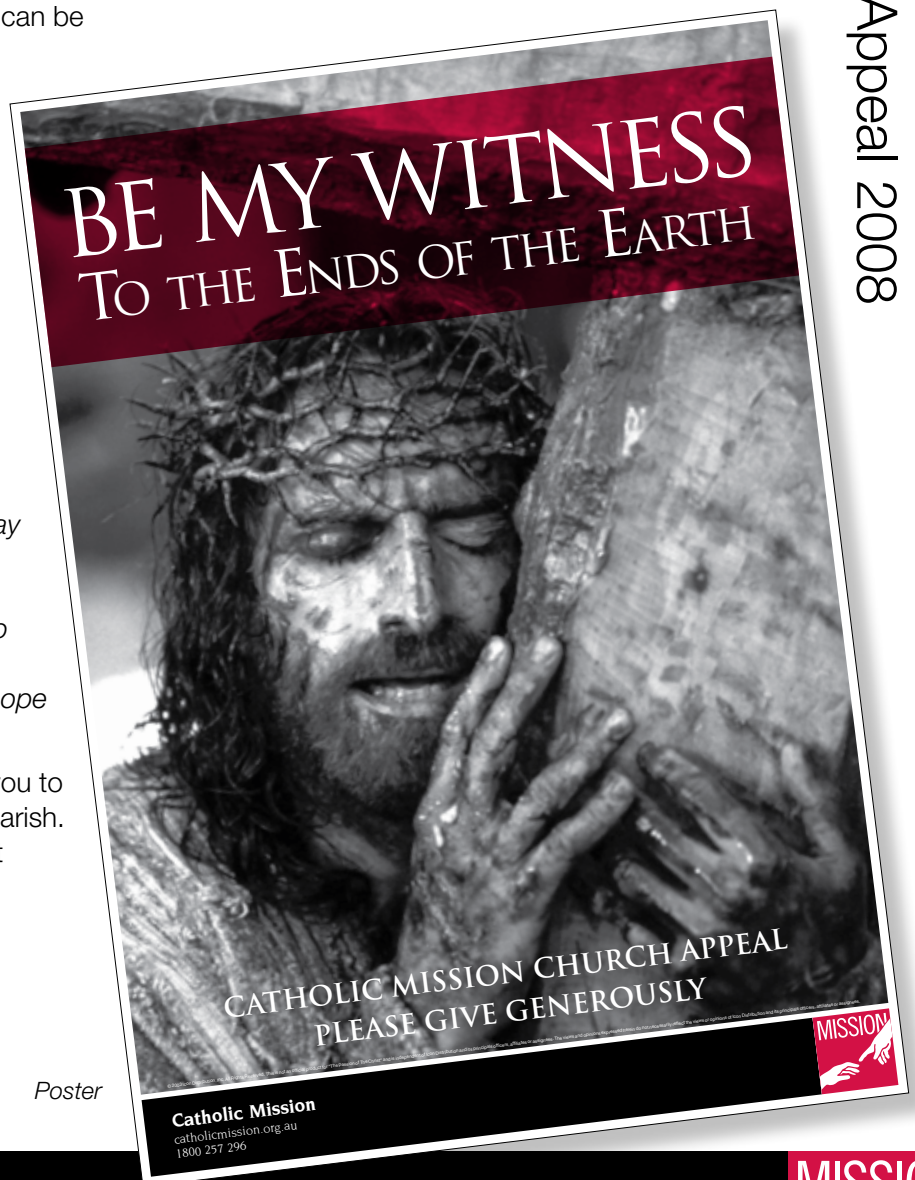
This year's theme is tied into a momentous occasion in the Church's history in Australia with the energy of World Youth Day upon us all. The image is a powerful one of Christ, a youth in mission, embracing His cross. The heavy emotion and the physical pain takes its toll on a human level, yet the spirit, whilst challenged, can never be broken. This image is a direct invitation for youth and the young at heart, to join in this call. A timely message for today's youth and, with determination, can be spread throughout the world.

Ruth Townley, a young Australian chose to embrace this call and sacrificed two years of her life in north Uganda, where many years of civil war have certainly trialled the human spirit. Ruth was taken aback by what she saw at the camp for internally displaced people and asked:

"How am I going to do this for two years? I need to be able to walk into this camp every day and somehow see the life, the dignity, the potential in these people and the hope. What can I offer? What in my experience qualifies me to walk in every day and be telling the people there is a reason for living, a reason for fighting? And then I decided that what I have to try and offer to these people is hope, because they can't hope for themselves right now, but I can hope for them."

For the sake of the poor we strongly ask you to promote this appeal successfully in your parish. Join us and provide an understanding that young missionaries throughout our world

are working in unison with your community, united in one spirit. These courageous people cannot continue without the financial support your community can offer. We are not asking for token gestures in giving, but a real sense of sacrifice needs to be enforced by the speaker on the day. This approach will bring about conversion of spirit and a connectedness to the youth in mission who are truly carrying out a sacrifice of love.



Poster

Prayers from the Mass for the Evangelisation of Peoples



Opening Prayer

Father,
you will your Church to be the sacrament of salvation for all peoples.
Make us feel more urgently
the call to work for the salvation of all,
until you have made us all one people.
Inspire the hearts of all your people
to continue the saving work of Christ everywhere
until the end of the world.

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant

Today we are invited to remember those who have taken the risk to live, preach and minister in countries other than our own. May the Holy Spirit dwell in them and in us as we remember and pray for our sisters and brothers here and throughout the world.

For the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI:
may he be strengthened and sustained in his leadership and witness of Jesus' saving mission to the world. *Lord, hear us.*

For those who attend World Youth Day this year:
may they be so filled with the power of the Holy Spirit so as to be credible witnesses to God's love for humanity to the ends of the earth. *Lord, hear us.*

For all the lay faithful living out their call to mission:
may all Christians be aware of their missionary duty to be involved in every field, including the political and social, so that all peoples come to recognise Jesus as the Saviour of the world. *Lord, hear us.*

For local Christian communities:
may those responsible for local Churches be constantly vigilant for the training of catechists, teachers and lay ministers committed to the service of the Gospel. *Lord, hear us.*

For the Church in regions of conflict:
through its commitment to promoting peace and reconciliation, may the Church in all troubled countries bear authentic witness to God's love for every individual and for all peoples *Lord, hear us.*

For vocations to priestly and religious life:
may there be an abundance of good and enlightened candidates for priestly and religious life in all parts of the world in order to respond to local pastoral and missionary needs. *Lord, hear us.*

For those responsible for public institutions:
may they build societies inspired by human and spiritual values, adopting laws to promote life and protect all people. *Lord, hear us.*

Celebrant

All powerful and loving God, we are inspired by those who preach your Gospel throughout the world. May we continue to do so in faith and simplicity so that your Kingdom may emerge in our world. We ask this through Christ the Lord. Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, look upon the face of Christ your Son, who gave up His life to set all free. Through Him may your name be praised among all peoples from East to West, and everywhere may one sacrifice be offered to give you glory.

Prayer after Communion

Lord, you renew your life with this gift of redemption. Through this help to eternal salvation may the true faith continue to grow throughout the world.

Final Blessing

May your love be upon us,
O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. *Amen*

May your love be upon us,
O Lord, as we go out to be missionaries in our world. *Amen*

May your love be upon us,
O Lord, and may we be blessed in the presence of one another. *Amen*

May your love be upon us,
O Lord, as we go out in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*

Speaker's Notes

(These notes may serve as the basis of a homily or presentation on the appeal theme.)

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

In the spirit of World Youth Day Catholic Mission has also taken this scripture as our inspiration for mission this year.

Something we may not realise is that Jesus was killed as a young man, young enough to attend WYD were he alive today.

Many young and not-so-young are giving of themselves out of love for their people.

By their witness, and their preparedness to 'go to the ends of the earth' they are carrying on Jesus' mission.

Pope John Paul II says witness is the first and irreplaceable form of evangelisation (Redemptoris Missio 42). The Church exists to evangelise through witness with loving acts of kindness.

The strong image of the poster reminds us of Christ's willingness to love, even dying on the cross to make known the Father's love for humanity.

We are all called to carry on this loving mission of Jesus to bring about the reign of God here on earth.

There are many ways of living this sacrifice. Some live out their mission in other countries.

The story of young Australian Ruth in northern Uganda is one such example. But equally so is the story of the young people she worked with.

(Suggest that people pick up the envelope at this point while you quote from it.)

Ruth tells the story of one young man, Kidega, with whom she worked.

When I was 12, my friend and I heard rebels approaching. We climbed a tree to hide but were eventually found. They attacked us and my friend was shot dead. I was taken into captivity and forced to commit many atrocities. Fearing for my life for years, one day during gunfire I managed to flee and, with the help of a priest who took me in and helped me get amnesty, I returned to my community. Now I am in school and plan to go to university.

The witness of Kidega and many other young people is helping bring about hope and reconciliation as they discover the grave risks they have taken in the name of love. Kidega now carries on Ruth's work in northern Uganda.

Today we, who have received so much, are asked to give so that those who are struggling to have a decent place of worship, or ministers who can break open the Word and celebrate the sacraments, or to have simple meeting spaces and training programs for youth leaders, may continue their work.

One concrete way of helping the ongoing work of missionaries like Ruth and the local missionaries of those communities, without leaving home, is by supporting Catholic Mission's work.

(Refer people to the inside panel of the envelope)

- \$33 per month will provide training for 10 new catechists in Uganda and \$38 will enable one catechist in Uganda to continue working for his community for a whole year
- \$80 will contribute towards the cost of a Youth Pastoral Training Course in Vietnam
- \$137 will enable one married couple to participate in a spiritual retreat in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

Thousands of young people from struggling Churches who attend World Youth Day will return to their communities filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to be Christ's witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Filled with hope and faith and belief in a better world, they will be keen to work, to build, to serve, to be trained and to lead.

They and their co-missionaries in the developing world need resources. This is a rare and exciting opportunity to provide the necessary resources to renew the face of the globe.

Like Jesus who was killed as a young man, many young and not-so-young are giving of themselves out of love for their people.

They are an inspiration and represent the hope of the resurrection for many.

We can share in their mission by helping them.

One of the best ways to ensure this ongoing missionary work of the Church is to become a regular donor through the 'Friends in Faith' program. Any amount is acceptable.



Ruth

Mission

The Church exists to continue Jesus' saving mission on earth.

The principal organ of the Church for supporting the Church's work on a global scale is Catholic Mission's Church Appeal - Propagation of the Faith.

In missionary cooperation "it is right that the Pontifical Mission Societies (Catholic Mission) should be given first place, because they are the means by which Catholics are imbued from infancy with a truly universal and missionary outlook and also a means for instigating an effective collecting of funds for all missions, each according to its needs."

(Ad Gentes 38)

This appeal is instrumental in establishing and sustaining parish communities and their priests, as well as supporting the catechists who share their faith and lead their local community.

Catholic Mission also supports the training of candidates for priesthood and religious life.

Through programs of education, healthcare, shelter, personal development and faith formation Catholic Mission helps care particularly for children.

Catholic Mission is currently supporting these works in 160 countries around the world.

Catholic Mission invites you to use these resources to connect your Parish with the thousands of communities who make up the Universal Church both near and far.

Appeal Envelope

On the outside panel of the envelope there is the call to be Christ's witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Cf Acts 1:8

Ruth Townley is one such witness who has literally 'gone to the ends of the earth'. She is a young Australian who has just given two years of her life as a pastoral worker in camps for Internally Displaced Peoples in the Archdiocese of Gulu, Northern Uganda. She mainly worked with young people in precarious situations caused by 20 years of civil war.

Through workshops utilising dance, drumming, music, sports, and improvisational drama she helped reduce violence and promoted empathy, reconciliation and peace building.

The inside panel gives real examples how the Church's work in Uganda and in many countries around the world can be supported through the generosity of caring donors.

Parishioners are invited to join Catholic Mission in supporting faith, peace and good works in Churches and communities around the world.

Parishioners are encouraged to join our "Friends in Faith" program and become a regular giving partner, to ensure ongoing resources are available for missionaries like Ruth around the globe.

Direct donations can be given by placing the donation into the envelope provided. Personal details are required for all credit card, direct debit, tax deductible and monthly donations.

We have included a box for parishioners who may be unprepared today, but would like to make a pledge. Please ask parishioners to complete their details if this option is chosen.

