



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

23 July 2010

Your Eminence, Your Graces, My Lords,

The second and remaining Mary MacKillop Canonisation Appeal will soon take place on **8 August**, the traditional feast day of Mary. Further to my initial letter requesting your support of this Appeal in April, I write to you once more asking you to alert your parish priests that the Appeal is soon to take place and request their support and promotion of it once again.

The Sisters are most grateful for the support parishes have provided, already giving generously to the first Appeal held in May. I too would like to echo this note of gratitude. By all accounts the first appeal has been a success, and we are on track in reaching our hoped for \$1million target.

Proceeds from the Appeal will go towards the coordination of the celebratory events in Rome and at Mary MacKillop Place, the distribution of educational materials surrounding the event, as well as assisting with the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives and youth representatives across all dioceses in attending the Ceremony in Rome. The staging of the official Canonisation Ceremony in Rome requires significant planning, liaison, preparations and financial support primarily related to official Ceremonial expenditure, as well as for the coverage, mass booklets, pilgrim support, merchandise and the dramatisation of Mary's life to be performed prior to the Vigil Service.

All parishes have now been sent further materials relating to the 8 August Appeal. Once again, it is my hope that you will be able to support this final Appeal and on behalf of the members of the Board, I would like to thank you for any assistance you may be able to provide.

If you have any questions relating to the Appeal, please contact the Mary MacKillop Canonisation Appeal Manager, Mr Chris Herron on 02 9390 5947.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Philip E Wilson
President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference