

Catholic Mission - Horn of Africa emergency donations

As has been previously advised, Catholic Mission is accepting donations towards the relief of the situation in this region of Africa. For those who may wish to donate through Catholic Mission we are able to forward funds directly to the emergency area.

Catholic Mission has contact with two Australian religious sisters of the Franciscan Missionary of Mary Congregation, in the Vicariate of Hawassa, which lies across the south of Ethiopia. One of the sisters is Sr Maureen Elliott, who for several years was the financial controller for Catholic Mission in Australia before she resumed her missionary role with her congregation.

Sr Maureen visited Sydney last week and informed us that the Diocese of Hawassa where she is working has a clinic and feeding centre in the south-east of Ethiopia – in fact it has numerous clinics but one is located precisely in the affected area. This is one of the areas that has been declared “famine and emergency” by the United Nations, and sits along the border with Somalia and is therefore where many of the Somali refugees are crossing into Ethiopia.

Sr Maureen has provided Catholic Mission with the bank details of the Diocese of Hawassa and has been in communication with the Bishop of Hawassa on behalf of Catholic Mission.

All donations Catholic Mission receive will be forwarded directly to the Catholic Church of Hawassa and Sr Maureen, who is now back in Ethiopia, has given us her personal guarantee that all monies donated from Australia will go directly to this feeding program in the South-west through the clinic operated by the Diocese and staffed by the sisters and helpers. Catholic Mission will be making the first transfer of donations, received to date, as early as next week, 2 August.

None of the funds donated and transferred will pass through any third party NGO's or agencies. The full 100% of donations will be forwarded to the Diocese in support of the feeding program.

Donations for those who wish to support this work can be made through our website at www.catholicmission.org.au, by mail to Catholic Mission, PO Box 768 Newcastle NSW 2300 or contact Barry or Claudette by phone (for credit cards etc) on 4979 1141.