

JUBILEE 2000

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Introduction:

Since the decision in May 1995 to convene the Jubilee Reference Group to prepare the Archdiocese for the Year 2000, three additional Catholic taskforces have been formed under this umbrella. This has involved 44 members of these three Catholic taskforces attending in excess of 80 meetings over the period 1996-2000. The reports of the Renewal 2000 Taskforce, the Mission 2000 Taskforce and Celebrate 2000 Taskforce give specific details of what has been achieved. In addition there has been active participation in the work of the Queensland Churches Together (QCT) 2000 Task Group and its numerous working parties. This report is an attempt to highlight some of the key aspects of the Jubilee journey undertaken by the Archdiocese under the visionary leadership of Bishop Michael Putney.

A Vision of Many Waves:

We have been blessed with the inspirational leadership of Bishop Michael Putney, whose role as Chair of the Bishops' Committee for the Year of Great Jubilee introduced us into many streams of the Jubilee tide emanating from Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter: *Tertio Millennio Adveniente* 'The Coming of the Third Millennium'. In this role Bishop Putney has galvanized the Australian Church into action through publication of The Letter to All Australians in July 1997 and organizing meetings of Jubilee Diocesan Contacts in 1997, 1998 and 1999 in Sydney. These meetings have been instrumental in sparking interest and support for initiatives and resources in each diocese as well as the celebration of National Catholic Jubilee Sunday on Trinity Sunday 2000.

Coordinator of the Office for Spiritual Renewal Incorporating the Year of Great Jubilee

Bishop Putney's participation in international meetings of the Vatican's Central Commission for the Jubilee, his published articles on varying aspects of the Jubilee and numerous addresses at civic, ecumenical, inter-faith and Catholic events served to put the Jubilee agenda in the minds and hearts of thousands of people across this nation. He has been an apostle of the Jubilee. The importance of having a visionary leader must not be ignored, for it has been one of the major keys to the success of the Jubilee as a vehicle for renewal in the Archdiocese.

The articulation of the biblical understanding of the Jubilee with its six themes of fallowness, forgiveness, freedom, journey, justice and jubilation indelibly implanted in our minds through the visual impact of Jubilee banners in every school and church has been another key that opened the hearts of many people to the Jubilee. Creating our own Australian Jubilee flavour with our logo, *Jesus Our Jubilee Hope*, also helped to embrace a wider audience. While linked closely with the Roman celebration of the Year 2000, we managed to create our own very distinctive Australian Jubilee celebration: nowhere was there anything to compare with our ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Heart or our local Jubilee Pilgrim Staffs. While participating in international campaigns and events such as the Jubilee 2000 debt campaign and World Youth Day event, we have developed our own unique calendar of events and activities that reflect the character and needs of our own society.

Within this program of events and activities, we have discovered another wave that will carry us beyond the horizon of the Year 2000 as we seek to be renewed as disciples of Jesus entering a new millennium. Evangelisation is now the catchcry of the Archdiocese but it will require extensive resourcing if it is to be turned into action at the local level as we seek to embrace the Archdiocesan imperative Setting Hearts on Fire.

This reflection on our Jubilee journey as an Archdiocese is important if we are to learn from our difficulties, limitations and our failures as well as being appreciative of our joys, our surprises and our successes. Enormous resources of personnel, their time and creativity, and the finances of the Archdiocese have been devoted to this Jubilee tide over the past five years. As good stewards, we need to make some sort of evaluation of the impact and overall value of the Jubilee in serving the life and mission of the Archdiocese. It is hoped that the key learnings of each wave and the overall conclusions will be useful indicators for future Archdiocesan programs and initiatives so that as a Church we can be more effective in our mission.

This report addresses our Jubilee journey under its various themes.

Waves of Renewal:

Bishop Putney's foresight and understanding of the Year of Great Jubilee as a 'year unlike any other... a year of grace...an opportunity for deep renewal' has impacted deeply on our Archdiocese, where the emphasis has been on encouraging parishes, schools, agencies and renewal groups to embrace the Jubilee vision at the local level. The work of the Renewal 2000 taskforce provided enormous impetus for the Archdiocese to renew itself during the preparatory years.

Taking up the themes: Year of Jesus (1997) Year of the Spirit (1998) Year of the Father (1999) predicated in *Tertio Millenio Adveniente*, a number of resources and events were developed by this taskforce to encourage parish communities to renew themselves.

A special Lenten program *Look To Jesus* (5,000 copies) was developed for 1997, *God's Love Poured Out – Themes* (7,000 copies) – *Prayers and Reflections* (9,000 copies) in 1998 and *Search and You Will Find* (7,000 copies) for 1999.

These Lenten discussion programs engaged large numbers of people in prayer, discussion and action centred around these three themes. Australian Catholic University, Mitchelton campus held a Proclaim Jubilee lecture series for each of these three years to foster further discussion and dialogue on these themes. A rally committee organized four major Archdiocesan Youth Rallies, two at All Hallows College (1996-97) and two more at the Piazza, Southbank (1998-99). These were marvellous celebrations of contemporary youth faith that utilized the creative gifts and talents of many young people. The gathering of 27,000 school children at Suncorp stadium in August 1997 to celebrate Reconciliation Through Education was a bold initiative to demonstrate our commitment to the process of reconciliation with our indigenous people and provide hope for the future.

Renewal groups were contacted and invited to initiate programs and events that would provide further opportunities for renewal across the Archdiocese. The Christian Mediation Community organized a major conference for each of these years with guest presenters such as Paul Harris (Canada) Fr Laurence Freeman (England) and Fr George Maloney (USA). Alpha programs, Charismatic rallies, a Holy Spirit in Art exhibition and Preparing the Soil justice seminars were offered by a variety of groups.

Spirituality and retreat centres organized prayer days, retreats and seminars on these themes. Publication of Opportunities for Spiritual Renewal in the Archdiocese of Brisbane by the taskforce proved to be an excellent catalyst for many communities to hold a mission, retreat day, special liturgy or other form of renewal program.

Presentation of 140,000 Jubilee prayercards to members of the Archdiocese in September 1997 heralded the beginning of a chorus of prayer in preparation of our celebration of the Jubilee. Prayercards were produced in each of the subsequent years: Year of the Holy Spirit (20 000), Year of the Father (20 000) and a Prayer of

Commitment bookmark on National Jubilee Sunday, Trinity Sunday (100 000). The series of five regional Come Holy Spirit Eucharists in 1998 were key moments in our spiritual preparation for the Jubilee. In each of the Archbishop's Pastoral Letters for Advent and Lent (1997-2000) there has been an impassioned plea for us to be a praying Archdiocese and this climaxed in Advent 1999 with the distribution of 100 000 Advent prayer calendars produced by the Carmelite community at Ormiston.

Key Learnings:

- ◇ renewal programs and resources need to be developed, promoted and utilized regularly;
- ◇ Archdiocesan events provide a focus and energy for local parish initiatives; and
- ◇ we are a church of diversity that needs to be reflected in the style, language, audience and focus of renewal programs and resources.

Waves of Mission:

The report of the Mission 2000 Taskforce (1997) has been instrumental in bringing about a number of Archdiocesan structural changes as well as embarking the Archdiocese on a journey to Synod in 2003. At the July 25, 2000 gathering at Mayne Hall: Beyond Jubilee: Setting Hearts on Fire, Archbishop Bathersby announced the implementation of the recommendations of this report.

While reaffirming his priorities to be an Archdiocese committed to the pursuit of spirituality, ecumenism and social justice, the Archbishop committed the Archdiocese to be an evangelizing church by naming the next phase of Archdiocesan life and mission: Setting Hearts On Fire.

A number of new Archdiocesan structures were announced including the formation of an Archbishop's Pastoral Council, the Commission for Evangelisation and Pastoral Planning, a Women's Resource Advisory Committee, a Commission for Young People,

appointment of a Moderator to oversee the work of the vicariates, developing a regional role for the auxiliary bishops, the calling of a Vocations Summit, holding a Priests Assembly and convening a Synod in 2003.

All these changes are designed to serve the primary call to be an evangelizing diocese. The Archbishop released his pastoral statement *Understanding Evangelisation* in video and booklet format as well as launching the PrayerFIRE campaign to underpin all our efforts at evangelisation. Each parish was asked to have a Scripture based prayer group and deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist as we embrace the call to be evangelizers.

Part of the agenda of the Jubilee Reference Group was to embrace Pope John Paul II's call for a 'new evangelisation' as we enter the threshold of the third millennium. It was proposed in 1998 that the Archdiocese should sponsor a National Catholic Conference on Evangelisation to explore the meaning of evangelisation for Catholics, develop a contemporary model of evangelisation and inspire Catholics to be evangelizers in response to their baptismal call so that post-Jubilee we would be fired to embrace this call.

Hearts on Fire held at the University of Queensland in July 1999 was an extraordinary event in drawing 3,000 Catholics to explore our understanding of evangelisation, look at practical ways to be evangelizers, learn from the experiences of others and celebrate the gift of our Catholic faith with others.

Hearts on Fire has been a powerful wave touching many hearts and establishing evangelisation as the key task facing the Church in the new millennium. The impact of this event is difficult to gauge but it has been seminal in establishing the new phase of Archdiocesan life and mission as: Setting Hearts on Fire.

Together the Mission 2000 Taskforce report and the Jubilee Reference Group's Conference on Evangelisation have set the Archdiocese along the path to Synod 2003 with its agenda: Setting Hearts on Fire – the challenge of following Jesus and transforming the world in the 21st century.

Key Learnings:

- ◇ there is an important role for large scale gatherings such as Hearts on Fire to affirm and inspire the identity, faith and commitment of members of the Archdiocese;
- ◇ structural changes will not of themselves bring about changes at the grassroots level;
- ◇ evangelisation is a holistic concept that embraces every aspect of our life and mission; and
- ◇ Catholics will need ongoing formation to become evangelisers.

Waves of Celebration:

Due to his awareness and appreciation of the Roman Jubilee calendar of events, Bishop Putney signalled many of the key moments and themes that could be echoed in local Church celebrations.

The Prayer Vigil for passage into the Year 2000 was taken up by many parishes which held evening, midnight or early morning prayer services and celebrations to mark this important transition. The Australian Catholic Bishop's Statement of Repentance released for Ash Wednesday paralleled and reinforced Pope John Paul II's Request for Pardon in Rome. The Jubilee for Consecrated Life was celebrated locally within the confines of the Carmelite monastery at Ormiston. The Eucharistic Congress held in Wollongong Diocese mirrored the international one held in Rome. World Youth Day was the catalyst for a diocesan pilgrimage of 70 young people who travelled with Archbishop Bathersby to the Holy Land and then joined another 25 Brisbane youth in Rome for this massive event.

The opening and closing of the Jubilee Door at the Cathedral linked this Archdiocese with the whole movement of the Jubilee celebrations in Rome.

Many Jubilee celebrations were local initiatives that sought to captivate the heart and mind of the Jubilee pilgrim. There was a conscious decision not to organize any mega events such as the Jubilee Schools event held at Stadium Australia by the Sydney Archdiocese. This was because it was determined by Archbishop Bathersby that the major event would be ecumenical (Ashes to Life) and that while there would be leadership shown in a few key Archdiocesan events, agencies, parishes, schools and groups would be encouraged to organize their own Jubilee celebrations. Accordingly, much time and energy was devoted to creating resources that would educate, encourage and empower local communities to celebrate Jubilee in ways meaningful to them. The calendar of events devised by the Celebrate 2000 Taskforce reflected a blend of ecumenical, Archdiocesan, regional and local parish events allowing members of the Archdiocese to participate in a variety of events in a range of venues with a diversity of themes.

The series of nine regional and four school Sound the Trumpet celebrations brought the Jubilee story to life through music, drama, humour, prayer and movement. The five Jubilee Pilgrim Eucharists held at the Cathedral in October proved to be a powerful climax to our Archdiocesan journey as 3 000 members of the Archdiocese accompanied their parish staffs. We marvelled as we listened to their Jubilee stories unfold. In contrast, National Jubilee Sunday was a local affair with parishes celebrating a common liturgy before choosing their own unique way of marking the Jubilee.

Apart from the series of six Journey of Light exhibitions curated by Tom Justice at the Global Arts Centre in Ipswich, we were largely unsuccessful in engaging civic and community arts groups in acknowledging the significance of the Year 2000 within their own programs. This demonstrates that there needs to be a more active interface between the Church and society.

Key Learnings:

- ◇ there is a place for large scale events/celebrations that provide a genuine sense of identity, affirmation and belonging to the Archdiocese if they are well prepared, creative, inspirational and encourage active participation;
- ◇ it is important to recognize the diversity of local contexts within the Archdiocese and provide opportunities for celebrations in local and regional centres;
- ◇ use of effective symbols can be a powerful tool in harnessing the energy, creativity and diversity of local experiences and developing a sense of ownership and unity;
- ◇ local initiatives can be fostered by the provision of quality resources that are attractive, educative and open-ended and which invite groups to create their own rituals/responses;
- ◇ regional/deanery events are difficult to organize and promote successfully without local ownership which requires extensive consultation and involvement in such events;
- ◇ contact with civic groups is difficult and requires expertise and further reflection; and
- ◇ churches needs to have a more intentional presence in civic events rather than seeking to organize their own.

Waves of Ecumenical Collaboration:

As President of Queensland Churches Together in 1999, Bishop Putney promoted the Year 2000 as a powerful means of promoting Christian unity and this is evident in the wide-ranging calendar of ecumenical events that took place.

The QCT 2000 Task Group formed the Ash Wednesday 2000, Week of Prayer For Christian Unity 2000 and Christian Education 2000 working groups to undertake particular tasks and events. These task groups and working parties were forums for much ecumenical dialogue and a renewed commitment to the ecumenical journey.

In particular, Ashes to Life was a remarkable occasion when over 2,000 Christians walked together through wet city streets to the Riverstage in the City Gardens to acknowledge their failings and to ask forgiveness of one another. This event was supported by On A Journey of Healing – Ash Wednesday resource kit with editions for primary and Sunday school and another for secondary schools. Journeying Together, the ecumenical service held on Queensland Day during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity spoke powerfully of the Christian commitment to justice, reconciliation and unity as it echoed the themes of the Pilgrimage to the Heart.

Again the Christian Resources working group produced a wonderful resource kit Blessed We Journey – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2000 to assist schools to explore these important themes. In May, Brother Ghislain from the Taize community provided an ecumenical space for youth to share their faith and spirituality at the Taize Prayer Experience held at Banyo Seminary.

Pilgrimage to the Heart, the national ecumenical Jubilee venture did not engage the Australian public as it was hoped, but nonetheless was a prophetic sign showing that the Churches are united in their desire to work together for reconciliation and unity in this land, particularly with the first peoples of this land. The reconciliation bridge walks that took place in most capital cities throughout 2000 captured the hearts and feet of many Australians who demonstrated their desire to be reconciled with their indigenous brothers and sisters.

In his report Crossing Deserts travelling together in the style of Oz, Fr Tony Doherty the pilgrimage director states ‘nor do I believe that the pilgrimage by itself will dramatically alter our country. But I do believe that there is a cumulative effect and that the pilgrimage, in God's economy of things, may well play a considerable role in the future of our churches and nation.’

Commitment to these ecumenical Jubilee activities began tentatively in August 1997 but gathered momentum with the advent of the working parties and climaxed in the Year of Christ Jubilee 2000 calendar of events that opened new avenues, relationships and experiences for members of the various Christian Churches to worship and work more closely together.

Key Learnings:

- ◇ ecumenical projects and events have a value in developing ecumenical relationships among those actively participating and organizing such events;
- ◇ occasional imaginative large scale ecumenical events are vital in promoting the cause of ecumenism and provide an opportunity for Christians to experience their hope for unity;
- ◇ ecumenical events require a long leadup time to allow each participating Christian church to contribute to their shaping and development and to inform their members about its character and purpose; and
- ◇ Jubilee ecumenical events were primarily liturgical but with a prophetic voice that spoke of the gospel call to justice, freedom and reconciliation.

Waves of Pilgrims:

Without doubt, pilgrimage became the dominant motif of the Jubilee year. Locally this was expressed in the pilgrim ritual at the Cathedral, the pilgrim staff given to each parish and the call to undertake a pilgrimage within one's own heart. Thousands of pilgrims, individually or in school, parish or renewal groups crossed the threshold of the Jubilee doors at the Cathedral of St Stephen. Most of these were anonymous, but the Jubilee pilgrimage of the Carmelite sisters from Ormiston attracted considerable media attention – their first outing since Pope John Paul II's visit to Brisbane in 1986.

This simple ritual challenged the Jubilee pilgrim to open the door of their hearts to God, to respect God in creation and other people, to renew their baptismal faith and to commit themselves to sharing the gospel with others.

The pilgrim staffs distributed to each parish community on the first Sunday of Advent 1999 were at first treated with suspicion and curiosity. They became 'holy objects' precious living records of the Jubilee journey of each parish community. Over 3,000 parishioners accompanied their colourfully decorated staffs when they returned to the Cathedral for the five Jubilee Pilgrim Eucharists held during October. Here we heard the rich tapestry of Jubilee activities undertaken by parish communities throughout the Year 2000.

If ever there was any doubt about the impact of Jubilee at the local level it was dispelled by the amazing catalogue of initiatives taken by parishes to live the Jubilee vision. The staffs have been returned to parishes as an ongoing reminder of their Jubilee journey.

While many individuals and groups undertook their own pilgrimages to Rome, Holy Land, Europe and other sacred places during the Year 2000, World Youth Day was the largest Jubilee pilgrimage event. Over 2 million youth travelled from every country of the world to join Pope John Paul II at Tor Vegeta University to celebrate a prayer vigil and Eucharist. The hardships of pilgrimage abounded in the Eternal City that was stretched beyond its limits to provide accommodation, food and venues for the young pilgrims. Our own Archdiocesan troupe had their own mixture of difficulties both in the Holy Land and in Rome, but this pilgrimage has changed lives and continues to impact on the faith lives of the pilgrims, their families and their sponsor parishes. Their own youth pilgrim staff holds many precious memories including their ascent up Mt. Sinai, their journey to the Jordan River, their passage through the doors of St. Peter's and their hot walk to Tor Vegata. The impact of this pilgrimage in the lives of all these pilgrims, their families and parishes is impossible to calculate.

Each of us was invited to be a pilgrim in the Year of Great Jubilee and to open ourselves to the blessings and graces of this special time.

Key Learnings:

- ◇ it is vital to provide spiritual experiences that allow the individual to reflect on their relationship with God and the direction of their life;
- ◇ good symbols and rituals provide entry points to explore the sacred;
- ◇ our rituals need to celebrate the richness of the human story in both its weakness and its strength; and
- ◇ pilgrimage provides space in our busy lives to move beyond the ordinary and explore new places and people with fresh eyes.

Waves of Justice:

Bishop Putney asserted that the Jubilee would lack authenticity unless it resulted in tangible gains to make it a more just world and for ourselves as Australians, to deepen reconciliation with our indigenous brothers and sisters. Certainly the Jubilee 2000 debt campaign carried largely by the Jubilee 2000 Coalition spearheaded by TEAR was highly successful in creating the largest world petition in history. While the promises of debt relief extracted from the G8 nations are largely still to be enacted, there have been some very real steps to set some of these impoverished nations free from the slavery of economic debt.

On a local level, there was considerable support for this campaign, together with the constant calls for financial and prayer support for many other local and global human tragedies. East Timor in particular was the focus of activity for many parishes seeking to rebuild this country after the devastation caused by the civil war after the overwhelming poll for independence.

As part of the Jubilee, a number of parishes undertook a long-term commitment to a justice project with a sister parish in a developing country. Many parishes supported the local campaign to release fine defaulters from jail with over 5,000 petitions collected. Others formed Reconciliation study circles to promote the cause of reconciliation, installed plaques recognizing their traditional owners and accepted the National Reconciliation Document.

Many local parish initiatives were undertaken; however it is unfortunate that there was no national or even diocesan project to highlight the commitment of Churches to the process of reconciliation. Sea of Hands displays in the City Gardens, at the Cathedral and at the Cherbourg community together with the very powerful Walks for Reconciliation across city bridges in most capital cities clearly identified the mainstream support for such a process. Although there was a proposal submitted to create an indigenous prayer garden in the grounds of the Cathedral, any decision has been deferred until plans for the Cathedral precinct are finalized. There was no tangible sign of any commitment to preserving the environment or of protecting the human rights of asylum seekers incarcerated in Australian detention centres.

While high on idealism, Jubilee justice lacked the impetus of imaginative projects that sought to redress inequities and injustices within our society. It is hoped that the justice initiatives and commitments of many groups, schools and parishes will continue so that the Jubilee ideals of freedom and justice can be further realized.

Key Learnings:

- ◇ there is need to recognize and affirm the extraordinary efforts of local groups who witness to their commitment to justice through a multitude of projects;
- ◇ it is important for Archdiocesan policies on social justice to be reflected in practical projects that both symbolize that commitment and impact on the injustices they identify;

- ◇ believe in the power of a few passionate and persevering people to change the world;
- ◇ justice is a long-term commitment that begins with a small step of faith; and
- ◇ greater interaction between the church as institution and the social justice movements needs to occur.

Waves of Resources:

There was a massive program of education about the Jubilee ideals of fallowness, forgiveness, freedom, justice, journey and jubilation. The sale of nearly 2 000 Jubilee banners ensured that these themes remained before people throughout the Year 2000. Parish resource folders and School resource kits were instrumental in equipping parishes and schools to turn the Jubilee vision into practical strategies in the parish and classroom respectively. Over 40 ,000 prayercards were distributed in the Archdiocese from 1997-2000 and they were key instruments in calling individuals to prayer and renewal. Special Jubilee Lenten discussion programs were pivotal in establishing the themes of the preparatory years and helping to deepen the understanding of Jubilee. Pilgrim kits, brochures, ritual cards and staffs assisted people to understand what it meant to be a pilgrim as well as supporting them in undertaking particular forms of pilgrimage. A range of Jubilee merchandise that included calendars, clothing, posters, pins, medals, stickers, candles etc. was made available to promote the Jubilee.

Particular Jubilee events were promoted in large scale mailouts, features and advertisements in the *Catholic Leader* and *Around the Archdiocese* and through the various networks and church agencies. The Archdiocesan website was another medium utilized to distribute information. Jubilee seminars were widely employed to educate and inform members of the Archdiocese about the scope and nature of the Jubilee. The newsletter *Journeying to Jubilee* promoted the various Jubilee themes, events, resources, plans and ideas that were emerging in the preparatory phase.

Overall, it seems that the Archdiocese was well educated and resourced to participate actively in the Jubilee. Involvement of church agencies, schools, parishes and renewal groups was cultivated through representative membership on the various Jubilee taskforces, the regular to all networks, the provision of tailored inservice and seminars on Jubilee, the development of resources targeted to particular groups (note the high regard for the Schools resource kit) and the use of the Catholic media for advertising events. The health sector, aged care and those not linked to Catholic faith communities were not contacted through any regular or intentional channel. The use of an Australian Jubilee logo 'Jesus Our Jubilee Hope' accompanying the international Roman Jubilee logo provided a local context that overcame a sense of imposition from outside and encouraged ownership and identity.

Key Learnings:

- ◇ a great variety of communications paths, mediums of communication and high quality resources are needed to make an impact across the Archdiocese;
- ◇ thought needs to be given as to how we can utilize opportunities such as the Jubilee to intentionally reach out to those on the margins of the church or those with no experience of church;
- ◇ networking is essential to maximize the impact and effectiveness of our communication by creating a sense of ownership;
- ◇ creative advertising in a range of media is essential to promote events;
- ◇ education supported by quality resources is vital if grassroots involvement is desired;
- ◇ visual media is vital to maintain a focus for any sustained period of time; and
- ◇ an animator can play a key role in promotion and the production of resources.

Conclusions:

The Jubilee has been a source of extraordinary blessings and graces for the Archdiocese and its members because there was:

A Jubilee Vision:

- * clearly articulated by Bishop Michael Putney and others;;
- * *Tertio Millennio Adveniente* was invaluable in providing a frame of reference & inspiration;
- * linked to a powerful biblical vision that touched and challenged the hearts of people;
- * that was ritualized and celebrated in a variety of events and activities;
- * that celebrated a significant religious anniversary linked to an important human event; and
- * which was held before people with visual and print materials.

An Effective Education Program:

- * during a preparatory phase (1997-1999) with intensive education and renewal programs;
- * with information disseminated by newsletters, journal articles, Catholic media, books etc;
- * where specific resource folders were produced for parishes and schools; and
- * with inservice sessions and Jubilee seminars presented around the Archdiocese.

A Balanced Calendar of Events:

- * that linked together universal, national, ecumenical, diocesan and local parish celebrations and activities in a cohesive framework;
- * that fostered and integrated ecumenical participation;
- * that engaged the imagination of people with symbols and creative rituals;

- * that encouraged the local parish to create their own life-giving Jubilee activities;
- * that had a distinctive Australian flavour; and
- * Jubilee celebrations for various groups in the Roman calendar could have been linked more at the local level through involvement with local interest groups.

Widespread Ownership:

- * generated through representation of key groups on Jubilee taskforces;
- * encouraged through meetings with various renewal groups and agencies;
- * through utilising the key symbol of the Jubilee staff to involve parish communities; and
- * by a continual flow of resources and promotions for Jubilee events to stakeholders.

Quality Resources:

- * that informed and educated about the Jubilee;
- * that provided opportunities for personal and group renewal;
- * that encouraged participation in Jubilee rituals/events;
- * that suggested various ways that local groups could live Jubilee;
- * that linked communities into the ecumenical, national and Roman celebrations; and
- * that had our own Australian flavour e.g. logo, poster, themes, actions etc.

Lessons and Suggestions:

Important lessons that we can learn from our implementation of the Jubilee include:

1. *Clearly identify Goals / Audience:*

- ◆ identify what are the goals of any renewal program;
- ◆ clarify who is the intended audience for such a program;
- ◆ map the network of existing channels of communication and establish which groups are likely to be on the margins or excluded; and
- ◆ devise strategies to be inclusive of those who are not covered by these networks.

2. *Linking with Civic and Community Groups:*

- ◆ personal contacts are key in developing an interface with societal groups;
- ◆ mutual interest/benefit needs to be established if co-operation is desired;
- ◆ timing is critical to ensure that any joint projects can be funded and planned; and
- ◆ creative and imaginative design and presentation of concepts is essential.

3. *Engage Local Faith Communities*

- ◆ grassroots participation needs to be invited, not assumed;
- ◆ leadership and active endorsement needs to be given by authority figures;
- ◆ adequate time needs to be allowed so that local groups can become motivated;
- ◆ promotional material needs a local contact person or group to utilize effectively; and
- ◆ benefit to local community needs to be apparent, not imposed.

4. *Utilise A Variety of Technologies & Communications;*

- ◆ information needs to be presented in a variety of formats and styles;
- ◆ people utilize a variety of communication channels some highly sophisticated, others very simple, so a multiplicity of channels is required;
- ◆ web pages and email facilities need to be utilized and regularly updated;
- ◆ personal letters have more impact than general promotional material; and
- ◆ imaginative design is vital for promotional material so that it stands above the rest.

5. *Rhetoric needs to be supported by Action*

- ◆ saying that we are a welcoming Christian community is not enough, we need to become a community who recognizes and welcomes the stranger in our midst;
- ◆ if we propose a commitment to a particular social justice issue, then it is vital that a practical project that symbolizes this commitment be enacted;
- ◆ vision needs to be translated into tangible and realistic projects and activities that can be managed at the local level; and
- ◆ commitment to spirituality, ecumenism, social justice and evangelisation needs to be exemplified by developing specific Archdiocesan projects, rituals and programs.

It is hoped that these reflections will prove useful in planning future renewal efforts across the Archdiocese and provide an overview of some of the graces and blessings that have taken place during the Year of Great Jubilee in the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

4th December, 2001