

Youth to attend World Youth Day in Sydney

- Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb

410 youth from the different parishes of Solomon Islands were commissioned by Archbishop Adrian Smith sm, Archbishop of Honiara at the concluding Eucharistic celebration held on 6th July, 2008 at Don Bosco, Henderson. In his homily, stressing on the words of St. Paul, he encouraged the youth to put an end to misdeeds and no longer be a slave of sin.



The 4 days camp was a spiritual preparation for the World Youth Day event. Eucharistic celebrations, adorations, way of the cross and an open air reconciliation cum Para liturgical celebration were highlights of the camp. While spirituality and formation were stressed, the participants also had time to relax and interact with others and practice cultural dances and items that will be staged in Australia. They were also able to enjoy indoor and outdoor games. Several said that the movie on the life of St. Maria Goretti, one of the WYD patrons had a powerful message for them. Listening to the talks and sharing their reflections at the sessions was a help to many as they live their youthful lives today.



Australian High Commission representatives, Dianne and Mike gave the group instructions to acquaint the participants of Australian procedures.

The pilgrims are thrilled to be part of World Youth Day 2008. Prior to the World Youth Day are 'Days in the Diocese' celebrations. The Diocese of Lismore has welcomed us and will host the pilgrims.

Lismore Diocese is subtropical country – lush, warm and extremely beautiful. This is a land of rich pastoral regions, dense rainforests, deep rivers and sweeping white beaches. From its southern region including Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour, both popular holiday destinations for travelling Australians, to the our northern regions including the city of Lismore, home to the Diocesan Cathedral. Byron Bay, the world renowned coastal town, sits on the most easterly point of Australia's mainland. The most northern parish, Tweed Heads, borders Queensland and its major attraction, the Gold Coast. The National Parks and Marine Parks of the region are some of the most beautiful in the Australia, where waterfalls plunge into river gorges and World Heritage listed rainforest protects a wide variety of wildlife. 30 Parishes make up the Diocese, and each will offer a unique experience into Catholic faith life within Australia.

The activities of Days in the Dioceses include:

- Celebrating life and faith with families
- Cultural activities, festivals, sport and music
- Prayer and visits to Catholic churches and communities
- Witnessing the living church in action serving the community
- Day of Social Service



The first group of pilgrims have already left for Australia and the rest will follow in the next few days. This celebration of Catholic faith, together with an estimated 500,000 pilgrims from all over the world will enliven the faith and commitment of the pilgrims. On their return, back to the Solomon Islands, it is hoped that they will renew the faith life of the people of we of the Solomon Islands for the next 20 years and beyond.