

...With thanks to Divine Providence...
 ...And a little help from you!



Father Paul Baczynski outside Cross Roads Community's new East Fremantle premises, made possible by the generous efforts of parishioners and supporters.

In 2000, Father Paul Baczynski started the Cross Roads Community Agency with Archbishop Hickey's blessing and a commitment for a small amount of money – enough to pay his rent and provide a meagre \$50 to live on each month.

Today, Father Paul and his team of counsellors and supporters celebrate the opening of the agency's new "home" at the East Fremantle Parish. "It is marvellous" said Father Paul.

"We have enough room for our counsellors, our group sessions, our administration, a small chapel - enough for our needs today and the future.

I cannot express enough thanks to the East Fremantle parishioners and to all the people and organisations who have supported and encouraged me over the past five years. There were many who said we would not

prevail, but you know, God has been with me every step of this journey.

In the beginning and still just as strongly today - I feel God guiding me, protecting me and helping me. Soon we will break ground on the fully funded Phase One of the Cross Roads Retreat Farm.

This is just so important, as it will allow us to provide care for people who need so desperately long-term support



& assistance 24-7. I am also trying to raise \$65,000 to fund one full-time counsellor as we are almost overwhelmed with calls for help.

I hate to think that people are hurting when they need not hurt, so I will continue to pray for God's help and put my faith in Divine Providence" he said.

Editors Notes:

Cross Roads provides counselling and supportive services for people battling addictions, as well as for many other areas of crisis, and extends loving support to their families and loved ones. Over 5,000 clients will be assisted and supported in some way this year alone - thanks to your generous and ongoing support of LifeLink.

Father Paul is recovering from his illness earlier this year (spending almost three weeks in a coma resulting from a viral infection in his blood) but he wanted to express his thanks for all the prayers and good wishes he received and to let everyone know he is well on the way to a full recovery.



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CATHOLIC STUDENTS LOGIN TO



Students at St Pius X School in Manning prepare to participate in Wednesday's LifeLink for schools webcast. The students are, from left, Joshua Sanchez-Lawson, Danielle Devereux, Jonathan Wong and Clare Titheradge.

Photo and story reproduced courtesy of The Record Newspaper

Archbishop Barry Hickey and Bishop Don Sproston celebrated the annual schools LifeLink Day on Wednesday morning with an interactive webcast to Catholic schools.

Students had the opportunity to e-mail questions to the Bishops and to listen to their responses, although the volume of traffic was so great that many questions were left unanswered.

At least 60 primary schools and 20 high schools took part in the webcast which was divided into two 45-minute sessions, one for primary schools and the other for high schools. It was conducted from the offices of Westnet Internet Services in Osborne Park, with schools logging on through the IT facilities of the Catholic Education Office.

Archbishop Hickey said that LifeLink Day was

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Bishop Spraxton (left) and Archbishop Hickey live and interactive at the LifeLink Day Webcast which was generously sponsored by Westnet Internet Services again this year.

an annual event which encouraged young people to show they care for people in the community who need help. LifeLink is the umbrella organisation through which the Archdiocese funds 13 agencies that help more than 60,000 West Australian families and individuals each year.

The agencies provide practical assistance and supportive programs for the unemployed, the homeless, migrants and refugees, people with physical and intellectual disabilities, those suffering from AIDS/HIV, families in crisis, those battling drugs and other addictions, abused women and children. The appeal is on-going and many schools use it as the foundation for practical education in Christian charity.

The Archbishop said that classes and groups of students in Catholic schools showed creativity and leadership in developing service programs within the school, through LifeLink agencies, in the general community and in mission experiences elsewhere in the State or overseas.

The complete record of Wednesday's webcast is available on www.lifelink.com.au where information is also available about the LifeLink agencies and there are facilities to receive donations.

The LifeLink agencies between them deliver more than \$24 million in caring services in WA each year.



Eric Cain (right), General Manager of Westnet, welcomes Bishop Spraxton and Archbishop Hickey to the Webcast facilities at Westnet.

Centrecare's Chairman Receives Queens Birthday Honour

We would like to take this moment to recognise and congratulate Martin Gribbon, Chairman of the Centrecare agency, on receiving a special award as part of the Queen's Birthday celebrations.

Martin was awarded the Public Service Medal for his efforts in providing family support services to the victims of the Bali bombings and their families; and to those affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami on Boxing Day.

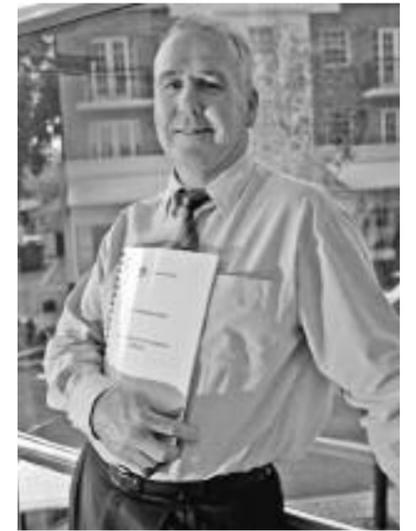
He was sent to Bali in May 2003 to support Australian families of those who died and survivors of the bombings who travelled to Bali to attend the trials of the alleged bombers. On December 29, he was again sent overseas to Thailand for two weeks as part of the Australian Government's response to the tsunami.

"It's so important not to take for granted the people around you and to realise the ability of the human spirit to keep living. Comforting survivors of the 2002 Bali bombings and families of those who had died in the disaster was the most harrowing experience".

But what came through the strongest for me, was the hope that the survivors and the victims families came away with and the resolution of the human spirit

I was proud to be involved." Martin said.

Tony Pietropiccolo, Director of Centrecare said "Martin's award is a well deserved honour. He is one of those special people who are able to do wonderful work with great care and compassion without fuss or fanfare.



(Photo of Martin Gribbon and extracts from this story courtesy of The West Australian Newspaper).

Having worked with Martin for many years now I have been able to see at close quarters his gentle counsel and wise insight. His contribution to Centrecare has been exceptional because whatever he does is founded on a genuine concern for others, a mature sense of justice and a discerning eye for what is truly important and what is not."

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