

# Students get behind LifeLink

■By Hugh Ryan

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 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/



**Students from St Pius X School in Manning prepare to participate in a live webcast for Archbishop Hickey's recent Lifelink appeal. The students are, from left, Joshua Sanchez-Lawson, Danielle Devereux, Jonathon Wong and Clare Titheradge.**

Photo: Jamie O'Brien

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 the webcast is available on [www.lifelink.com.au](http://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 \$24million in caring services in WA each year.