



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Everyone knows that we don't have enough Catholic Chaplains to meet the needs of our people who are serving in the Australian Defence Force. We are a Nation at war and have been for ten years. That is one of the longest periods of operations in our Nation's history. While it was well understood and documented after the Korean War, the fact that one's faith is 'the most important single factor' that sustains one in combat and on operations was a lesson that has been lost in recent times. However, there are positive signs that this is now better understood and there is encouragement for affirming the development of religious faith. How do we affirm, encourage and assist our brothers and sisters in their spiritual life?

The special Catholic Prayer Book that was developed for Members of the Australian Defence Force has been very widely welcomed and is particularly useful for members deployed on operations.

It is special because it speaks to their need – particularly because their access to a priest is severely restricted. It is special because it keeps them in contact with the rest of the Catholic family.

It is special because it is something physical that can be held, read, felt that gives a reminder and a re-assurance of their shared spiritual life and social connection with the elect and chosen of the Lord Jesus. It is also special because it comes from the hearts, minds and contributions of many Catholics as a sign of their recognition and support for these members as they attend to the duties that the Nation has entrusted to them.

There is a need to reprint the Prayer Book. The operational environment requires some special features that are necessary to ensure that it can be useful and practical. These features add to the expense. Once again the Knights of the Southern Cross have volunteered to assist in organising the raising of the necessary funds, in managing the production and in delivering the Prayer Book. Please consider how you can support them in their efforts and recognise that this is a very real, useful and much appreciated indication of our spiritual closeness and encouragement for the members of the Australian Defence Force.

(+Max L. Davis)
Most Reverend Max L. Davis, AM DD
Military Ordinary of Australia
Catholic Bishop of the Australian Defence Force

Knights of the Southern
Cross Australia

Catholic Prayer
Book for the
Australian
Defence Force

November 2011



Catholic Prayer Book for the Australian Defence Force

How you can help

The Knights of the Southern Cross throughout Australia are conducting a fundraising campaign to provide the Military Ordinariate with 10,000 Catholic prayer books, specially printed and designed for use by the Catholic men and women serving on overseas assignments with Australia's Armed Forces.

The books are printed on a special 'water proof' paper and cost \$4.00 each.

The initial print of 10,000 books in 2006 has been exhausted and this project will update the book with the new version of Mass responses.

Donations to the

'ARMED SERVICES CATHOLIC
DIOCESAN REVENUE FUND'

will help to cover the printing costs and are tax deductible. Receipts will be issued via the Military Ordinariate in Canberra.

**Yes, I will assist by providing funds to
printbooks at a cost of
\$4.00 each.**

(Donations are tax deductible)

Enclosed is my cheque for
\$.....made payable to:

'ARMED SERVICES CATHOLIC DIOCESAN
REVENUE FUND'

OR

Please charge \$.....to my credit card:

Visa

MasterCard

Card Number:.....

Name on card

.....

Signature..... Expiry date...../.....

Address for receipt:

Name:.....

Street.....

City.....

Phone.....

Knights of the Southern Cross



Service and Christianity

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