

CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC DOCUMENTATION

In September 1986 the Catholic Institute of Sydney in its efforts to serve the pastoral and intellectual needs of the Australian Catholic Church resolved to set up the Centre for Australian Catholic Documentation as part of its library operation. The reasons for doing so were the following:

- to serve the pastoral needs of the Australian Church by gathering the printed records of debate and pastoral initiatives, by organizing these records and making them available for research, pastoral planning and dialogue.
- to provide a collecting point for printed historical records relating to Catholic thought and achievements in Australia over the last two hundred years and to make these records available for research.

By establishing this Centre the Catholic Institute of Sydney intends to provide a clearinghouse of information in the area of Australian Catholic studies.

The functions of the Centre will be the following:

- to gather up printed records illustrating contemporary Australian pastoral initiatives and make these records available for consultation.
- to collect, preserve and make available for consultation printed historical documentation with regard to Catholic thought and activity in Australia over the last 200 years.
- to centralise information concerning other locations where material documenting Australian Catholicism may be found.
- to create awareness for the need of preservation of records among Australian Catholics.
- to support the National Catholic Research Council in its task of co-ordinating and initiating pastoral research to assist the Catholic Church in Australia with its planning for the future.

The Centre already contains a considerable collection of historical and contemporary materials and will continue to solicit and acquire all types of material printed in Australia (and abroad) relating to any aspects of the Catholic Church in Australia including -

- books and theses
- pamphlets and promotional material
- Catholic periodicals, popular magazines, newspapers
- annual reports
- pictorial works and posters
- audiocassettes, tapes, film and video cassettes

but generally excluding archival collections, unidentified photographs and realia. The Centre will however advise on appropriate archives where such material can be preserved.

The Centre for Australian Catholic Documentation is at present conducted at the Catholic Institute of Sydney by the staff of the Veech Library and by voluntary workers. The Centre and its directors are assisted in its operation by a policy Advisory Committee of experts in various disciplines and a Committee of Friends active in raising the necessary funds for operating the Centre.