



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

**ACMRO Director appointed to Pontifical Council for Migrants and Refugees
Media Release
1 February, 2011**

Director of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee office Fr. Maurizio Pettená CS has been appointed as a consultant to the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Refugees.

The announcement was made by the Holy See Press Office on 29 January, 2011.

Fr Maurizio brings to this new position over 20 years of pastoral experience, having worked in countries as varied as his native Italy, Argentina, the Philippines and Australia.

He is a member of the order of Scalabrinians of Charles Borromeo, which has a particular charism to work with migrants and refugees.

Fr Maurizio is honoured to have been appointed to this post, and hopes that it will give issues facing migrants and refugees in Australia more prominence.

“The Church in Australia is without doubt a multicultural church. The impact of migration is more and more visible especially in parish life, and in the priests serving the dioceses and in the membership of religious congregations”, said Fr Maurizio.

Fr Maurizio yesterday dedicated his appointment to the late Bishop Joe Grech, who was the Australian Catholic Bishops delegate for Migrant and Refugee issues.

“Bishop Joe taught me how we love and serve migrants and refugees in the Church in Australia. Migrants and refugees are an ongoing hot-button issue in Australian politics. Prior to his death, Bishop Joe Grech intervened frequently on issues pertaining to the welcome of asylum seekers and refugees, and two other Australian bishops (Bishop Eugene Hurley and Bishop Christopher Saunders) have also come out in defence of asylum seekers since Bishop Joe’s death.”

“This appointment will give the Church in Australia the opportunity to bring the wealth of their pastoral experience in the service of migrants and refugees to the wider Church”, he said.

Fr Maurizio has been well published in the area of migrants and refugees, and his most recent book, edited with Fr Fabio Baggio CS is titled *“Caring for migrants – pastoral documents on the care of migrants”*.

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