



Archbishop of Wellington

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Annual Message to the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of Wellington

Dear Foundation Members

Once again as the Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of Wellington approaches, it is time to write an introduction to this report and to say THANK YOU for your wonderful and generous support of me as your Archbishop, and more importantly, for your support of the Mission of the Archdiocese.

When the Catholic Foundation was launched by Cardinal Williams in 1981 some of you would have been present. The Archdiocese of Wellington had a great need for funding and there was a very generous response from the people. The first members, and the new members who would follow, were asked to contribute a sum either in cash or through a legacy, which would become the capital base for the Foundation. The first \$1 million was pledged in a little over a month, which was profoundly encouraging to then Archbishop Tom Williams, who had been Archbishop for less than two years. Over the years the wise and careful management of funds has enabled the capital to grow to nearly \$11 million. The work of the Archdiocese could not be carried out without the support of the Foundation. I am most grateful for that, as Cardinal Tom was before me.

The support of the Foundation is needed even more today as we face new financial challenges, and as the Mission of the Church is more complex and more urgent. We have made attempts to grow the membership of the Foundation, and therefore the capital, over the years, but these efforts have not been entirely successful.

The Foundation's Board members are engaged in a review of the Constitution with a view to making it more fit for purpose in these times, and in particular, to give the Foundation more flexibility in attracting new members. This is a timely initiative and I thank those who are doing the hard work on the review and revision.

Generosity is at the heart of the Foundation's work, and God is never outdone in generosity. As we look back on another year of solid work by the Foundation, the "generosity prayer" of Pope Francis is our theme for future: "[Lord, help us to live the virtue of generosity, to love without limits](#)".

Yours sincerely in the Lord

✠ John A Cardinal Dew

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