



THE BISHOP OF LEEDS

January 2008

To Students and Pupils in Catholic School in the Diocese of Leeds

As you will be aware, this year in our Come and See process we are reflecting on *Being the Local Church*. One of the ways in which we show to those around us that we are followers of Jesus is through our care of those who are most in need in our communities. Jesus reminds us in the Gospel that 'in so far as you did to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' We are richly blessed in the Diocese of Leeds to have Catholic Care. Catholic Care seeks to work with some of those who are most vulnerable within our diocese on our behalf. It provides care for children who can no longer live with their own families. Catholic Care also has social workers based in schools and parishes, who work alongside teachers and priests to support children and their families who are experiencing difficulties. In addition it offers services to people with learning disabilities, those with long-term mental illness, and elderly people.

Each year the pupils and students of our schools are invited, as part of their Lenten practice, to raise money to help the work of Catholic Care. It is a great source of pride for me, your Bishop, to witness how generously you respond to that invitation. In doing so you are showing great solidarity with those who are most in need of your support. You are also showing, in a very tangible way, what it means to be the local Church. You seek to reach out to those of your own age who need your help; you identify yourselves as their brothers and sisters. I know that this year will be no different and so I invite you once again to take up the challenge firstly to pray especially for Catholic Care and for those who they care for and secondly to support the fundraising events that are being organised in your schools and colleges.

Last year, when you joined me in Leeds Cathedral for the annual Good Shepherd service, you presented me with £57,798 for Catholic Care, the fruit of your Lenten work. It was a joy to be with you on that occasion and to take part in the liturgy prepared by St John the Evangelist Primary School, Bradford. This year the Good Shepherd Service will take place at Leeds Cathedral on Tuesday 22 April. I look forward to seeing many of you on that day.

With a blessing

Bishop of Leeds

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