



## THE BISHOP OF LEEDS

February 2008

### **Catholic Care (Diocese of Leeds)** **Annual Appeal Fourth Sunday of Lent: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2008**

Dear Friends,

Each year the Diocese allows Catholic Care to make an appeal to you for funds to undertake its work within the Diocese. This work is a vital sign of the presence of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church within today's often difficult and unwelcoming society. It is not easy work, but it is a real reflection of our love for our neighbours in the midst of their overwhelming difficulties.

Many of you will know of social workers based in schools and parishes, working alongside teachers and priests. They offer help and support to children and families in need. It is valuable work directly affecting the lives of many and gives strength, reassurance and hope, to children and adults alike. Such work will centre on issues such as family breakdown, self-esteem, anger, loss, bereavement and truancy.

The Catholic Care adoption agency is the longest established in the Yorkshire and Humberside region. Children are placed from throughout the country with families in this Diocese who feel able to adopt. Social Workers work closely with many who were adopted through the Agency in the past. The Agency continues to seek prospective adopters from the church community. Do contact the Agency if you are interested. Adoption changes a child's life forever. In addition, the Agency works with local authorities to find foster parents for children who are in care, especially Catholic children. Once again, if you feel that you could be a foster parent, please get in touch.

The partnership with both local authorities and other voluntary organisations remains strong. Catholic Care has five residential homes for children and young people, eight for people with learning difficulties, and four projects for people with Mental Health difficulties. All continue to receive high praise and recognition from the statutory agencies.

I warmly commend to you the work of Catholic Care in our Diocese. They do great work among us. I know you will be generous in your giving.

With every blessing  
Yours sincerely

Bishop of Leeds

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