

12 June 2002

.au Domain Administration Ltd
Attention: Ms J Lim
Chief Policy Officer
GPO Box 1545P
MELBOURNE V 3001

Dear Ms Lim,

Re: Proposal for catholic.au

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference considers the Internet an essential means to further the mission of the Catholic Church in Australia. Indeed, in his message for the 36th World Communication Day, His Holiness Pope John Paul II summoned the whole of the Church "...bravely to cross this new threshold, to put into the deep of the Net, so that now as in the past the great engagement of the Gospel and culture may show to the world 'the glory of God on the face of Christ'."

As part of its overall strategy to take the Church on-line, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference seeks to reflect in the on-line environment the Australian Catholic Church's sense of community. Consequently, we welcome the .au Domain Administration's (auDA) call for proposals for new .au second level domains. We are very pleased, therefore, to submit the attached proposal for the creation of a catholic.au "closed" second level domain (2LD) in response to auDA's request for proposals (RFP) issued on 24 April 2002.

This proposal is prepared and managed by Church Resources on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Church Resources is a charitable trust, launched in 1997, under the auspices of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference with the support of Congregational Leaders of Religious Institutes. The mission of Church Resources is to:

1. provide a national Church telecommunications infra-structure to facilitate Church participation in and contribution to the era of on-line and digital communication for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel and building community and
2. combine the buying power of Church institutions and members to achieve savings and improved levels of service, for the purpose of increasing Church resources and effectiveness for core mission activities of a religious, social and pastoral nature. The beneficiaries of the trust are the institutions and members of the Catholic Church in Australia.

You will note in the attached application, that not all details for the operation of catholic.au 2LD have been finalized. You would appreciate that some of these issues are being confirmed within the Church's governance structures. This has simply been impossible to fully complete in the 40-day timetable set by auDA for proposals.

Nevertheless, you should have confidence in the seriousness and the importance of this application, and the determination of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference and Church Resources to finalize our internal consultations and the operational details of the proposal as soon as possible.

We look forward to your positive response and working closely with auDA to make successful this unique opportunity for a community-based 2LD.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Brian V Finnigan
General Secretary
Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference

cc. Reverend Father Michael Kelly SJ, Chief Executive Officer, Church Resources
Chris Disspain, Chief Executive Officer, .au Domain Administration Limited
The Hon. Senator Richard Alston, Minister for Communications, Information
Technology and the Arts