

## Suggestions for preparing your Project Compassion talk

### **Introduce yourself**

(eg I am a volunteer for Caritas Australia)

### **Introduce Caritas Australia's Project Compassion etc**

Caritas Australia is the Catholic Church's Official International Aid & Development Agency. We work in more than 35 countries around the world to alleviate poverty & bring hope to communities who are so much less fortunate than ourselves.

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's Lenten appeal which enables Caritas Australia to bring relief and aid to people whose lives have been devastated by natural disaster or conflict.

Last year the Catholic people of Australia donated over \$8 million to the Project Compassion Appeal and we thank you for your generous support.

### **Thank parishioners for supporting Project Compassion over the years**

In 2006 this parish raised \$ for Project Compassion.

(Ask your Caritas Diocesan Director or Parish Priest for the \$ amount raised in your parish)

### **Low administration-cost ratio**

Caritas Australia keeps its costs on administration and fundraising at or below 10% of revenue raised for Project Compassion.

### **Tell the story**

(Tell the story you have chosen to illustrate the work of Caritas Australia)

For example:

In our Project Compassion leaflet this year you can read about the struggle and success of fish farmers in Bangladesh.

Farid is from Bangladesh. Only nine years ago his village struggled to grow enough food to eat. Many people suffered from malnutrition.

Caritas provided technical advice, training on how to establish fish ponds and vegetable gardens and established a local hatchery where baby fish could be purchased. Villagers now enjoy home grown fish and a variety of vegetables all year round. In addition, savings groups have been established to support income generating activities.

### **Connect to Project Compassion**

Your donations and support have enabled this success story to unfold.

### **Highlight changes in the lives of those featured in the story**

These are found within the text of the stories provided.

Eg Week One story – Farid and his community in Bangladesh have gained food security, improved health, business skills and self-reliance...

### **Highlight why Caritas success stories benefits listeners/ donors**

Hearing about changes in the lives of those we help brings about a change in us.

We are part of the success story. It gives up hope for the future of our world.

### **Thank you for your continued support**

#### **We would love you to say:**

Please take a Project Compassion leaflet; set of envelopes or box.

(If talking at a mass during the homily, please say:

To make a donation right now please use one of the envelopes on your seat and place it in the second collection).

\*It can be very powerful to use the Project Compassion box or leaflets at the start of your talk. You might like to say, 'Remember the Project Compassion box' and hold it up.

### **THANK YOU**