

# **ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS PATRICK CARROLL**

## **Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*)**

Mr Chancellor, I present Archbishop Francis Patrick Carroll for admission to the Degree of Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*).

His Grace has devoted a lifetime of faithful and generous service evidenced by the tolerance and concern shown towards the parishioners who have come under his care, through his commitment to encouraging lay participation in the life of his Church, and through his involvement in, and contribution to, various facets of education.

Francis Carroll was born in Ganmain on September 9, 1930, the second of seven children. He came from a family with a strong faith and an avid interest in Australian Rules football, the extended family being able to field their own junior and senior teams.

He completed his primary schooling at Devlin Subsidised School and then at St Brendan's Presentation Sisters' School in Ganmain. He was a quiet and unassuming student, who, despite his father's initial reluctance, completed his secondary education in Sydney at the De La Salle College, Marrickville.

He first contemplated a vocation to religious life at the age of 11 or 12 years. During his final year at school, and at the age of sixteen, he was accepted by Bishop Henschke as a candidate for the Priesthood for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. Bishop Henschke was to play a significant role in his life, both through encouragement and guidance in early life, the first two years of his seminary training at St. Columba's College Springwood, and a further six years at St Patrick's College in Manly. He returned to Ganmain in 1954 and was ordained into the priesthood at the age 24.

After his ordination Father Carroll was first Assistant Priest of Griffith from 1955-1959 during which time his duties centred around Catholic Education and led to his appointment as Assistant Inspector of Diocesan Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. In 1959 he was appointed as Assistant Priest of Albury.

In 1961, again with the encouragement of Bishop Henschke, he pursued post-graduate studies, obtaining high honours and a doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Urban University in Rome in 1964.

At the conclusion of his studies in 1965, Father Carroll returned to take up an appointment as Private Secretary to Bishop Henschke and as Chancellor of the Diocese and Diocesan Inspector of Schools in 1965. His consecration as Titular Bishop and Co-adjutor Bishop of Wagga Wagga followed in 1967. He attended the Second Vatican Council. In 1968, Father Carroll succeeded Bishop Henschke as Bishop of Wagga Wagga.

Bishop Carroll was regarded by all as an approachable bishop, known for his gentleness, who developed a close relationship with his congregation particularly the

youth in the Diocese. He was tolerant and patient with those parishioners who required time to come to accept the changes occurring within the Catholic Church. He sought to involve and nurture the laity's participation, both in the making of important decisions in relation to the progress of the church, and in the mission of the Church. Bishop Carroll can take much of the credit for the establishment of Trinity Senior High School in Wagga Wagga in 1968 which hailed an exciting new concept in Catholic Education, the first co-educational high school for years 11 and 12 in the Region.

In 1979, a con-celebrated Mass was offered by visiting Bishops and priests of the Diocese for the occasion of Bishop Carroll as silver jubilee priest.

In 1983, Bishop Carroll was installed as the fifth Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn succeeding Cardinal Edward Clancy. Saint Christopher Cathedral in Canberra was the venue for the gathering of Bishops and Archbishops from across Australia, who joined with many prominent Parliamentary members, diplomats and civic leaders to witness his liturgical reception and installation as Archbishop. As Archbishop he has sought to foster the formation of Diocesan Pastoral Councils and to encourage the focussing of many of these gatherings on issues which included Aboriginal people and theft spirituality, ecumenism and the rural recession.

In September 1992, his Grace celebrated 25 years as a Bishop at which time the letter from Pope John Paul I referred to the high regard in which his Grace is held in the community and in the diligent manner that he has carried out his duties. During these silver jubilee celebrations, Bishop Carroll was described as "hard working", 'competent' and "pastoral". Specific mention was made of his great contribution to Catholic education, in particular catechetics, the inspiration and friendship he has provided to his parishioners over the years, and the great achievements he has made, in and through his ministry. Humanitarian issues have also played a significant role in his life.

Amongst Archbishop Carroll's other notable accomplishments, are as Australian Representative on the International Catechetical Commission from 1975 - 1980, Australian Representative at the Synod of Bishops in 1977, Chairman of the National Catholic Education Commission from 1974 - 1978 and the writing of a number of important publications, including, "Celebration and Challenge: Catholic Education in the Future."

During his time in Wagga Wagga his Grace served as a member of the Interim Council of the Riverina College of Advanced Education and for 8 years as a member of the Council of the College.

Today the University honours the caring and distinguished service Bishop Carroll has given through his ministry, and the significant contribution he has made to Catholic education.

And so Mr Chancellor, I commend to you Francis Patrick Carroll, Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, priest and pastor, scholar, humanitarian and education college founder and distinguished son of the Riverina for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*).

**Dated this Twenty First Day of April One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Four**