

Bishops host reception for Curial officials

Australia's Bishops have hosted a reception for some of the Vatican's top curial officials, including a number of Cardinals, as a formal thank-you for their hospitality during the ad limina visit.

Among those attending the reception were the Prefect of the Congregation of Bishops, Cardinal Re, the President of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant People, Cardinal Hamao, the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, Cardinal Francis Arinze and the Secretary-General of the Synod of Bishops, Cardinal Schotte. The Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, Dr John Herron and his wife Jan were also present. Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President, Archbishop Francis Carroll delivered a short speech in which he thanked the Curial officials for their warm hospitality during the ad limina visit. "We have enjoyed very well the visits to the various congregations and we thank you for the warm welcome we have received," Archbishop Carroll said. The Bishops are continuing their program of meetings with congregations this week and are also continuing their round of private audiences with Pope John Paul II. Their spiritual pilgrimage to the tombs of the Apostles will again become the focus this week when they celebrate Mass at St Paul's Outside the Walls, the site of the tomb of St Paul.