My dear people,
Throughout the year, I had the opportunity to visit many of our schools with completed renovations and building developments as part of the Australian Government’s Building the Education Revolution and Capital works programmes. I am very thankful for the support of our federal and state governments who provide both financial and political support of the endeavour of Catholic schooling in Australia. We are very blessed to have this support and assistance.

These contemporary spaces have been a very worthwhile addition for our communities and will support the provision of a quality Catholic education for our families. The success of the Diocese’s response to the BER programme is in a large part due to the commitment of our parishes and schools, and the Catholic Education Office, to plans that will meet current and future needs of students as the Diocese continues to grow. The planning and support of future capital works projects will continue primarily through the Diocesan School Building levy which enables us to combine our resources and ensure all parish communities in the Diocese are able to meet the need of families for Catholic education, to a consistent high standard, despite socio-economic or other differences.

The Diocesan School Building Levy is a vital source of income for our school communities. While both state and federal governments provide some financial assistance, we receive far less assistance for land purchase and building per capita than our government school counterparts and rely on the contribution of families to support further improvements.

In commending this report to you, I wish to thank all those who have given of their time and resources to ensure the ongoing sustainability of our school building programme and thank our families and parishes for their commitment and generosity. Yours sincerely in Christ,

(Most Rev) Anthony Fisher OP
BISHOP OF PARRAMATTA

Gregory B Whitty
Executive Director of Schools

The Diocesan School Building Levy has enabled the Diocese of Parramatta to fund the building and upgrade our 78 schools over the past 15 years.

The capital needs of our school communities have been met through the contribution of our Catholic school families and the assistance of the Diocesan Development Fund, as well as funds from the federal and state governments.

The support of our families through the building levy ensures the Diocese can continue to provide quality infrastructure and facilities to meet the learning and teaching needs of our school communities and cater to the growth of the system in the fast growing areas of western Sydney. The school building levy contributes to the repayment of loans for past building projects, currently accounting for about two-thirds of the total annual levies received.

Throughout 2011 a number of key developments, including

- The opening of a new multipurpose hall at the Diocesan School at St Andrew’s College, Tempe.
- The opening and blessing of the learning and administration facilities at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary, St Marys.
- The completion of the new building at St Columba’s High School.
- The opening of the new Year 7-12 block at St John’s College.

The Diocese is committed to the ongoing investment in world-class educational infrastructure to support quality learning and teaching now, and in the future.

I would like to thank our families, parish and school communities, the Parramatta Diocesan Catholic Schools Council under the chair of Bishop Anthony Fisher OP; and state and federal governments for their ongoing support of our capital works program.

Opening and blessing of the learning and administration facilities at John XXIII Primary, Stanhope Gardens.