

# Dinner raises funds for military chaplaincy

THE Knights of the Southern Cross hosted a fundraising dinner on May 23 at Holy Trinity Parish in Curtin to help pay for the training and support of Catholic chaplains for the Australian Defence Force.

Guest speaker Fr Richard Thompson, parish priest of South Woden, entertained guests with anecdotes and reminiscences of 17 years as a Royal Australian Navy chaplain.

The Military Ordinariate has been allotted 45 full-time positions for Catholic chaplains across Army, Navy and Air Force. At present the Diocese has 16 full-time chaplains (priests, permanent deacons and lay chaplains) across the three services. Often, the Military Diocese is unable to deploy Catholic chaplains overseas with personnel, resulting

in Catholic members not having access to the Mass and the Sacraments whilst on operations.

In order to best effect the ministry of these few, the Diocese has gathered them sparsely across major bases

**The event raised \$2,520, which will help provide much needed support for Defence chaplaincy in Australia.**

located in Darwin, South East Queensland, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. Unfortunately many Defence establishments do not have a Catholic chaplain.

If the Military Diocese can-

not attract full-time priests, it relies very much on part-time chaplains who do important work in their regions. These numbers are falling as well.

The funds raised by the Knights of the Southern Cross go to the Armed Services Catholic Diocesan Revenue Fund to support Defence chaplaincy. The Supreme Knight, Colin Walsh, presented the Military Ordinariate's administrator Mgr Peter O'Keefe with donations of \$2,520 raised at the event. He also took the opportunity to present a cheque for \$2,500 to the Fund from the Knights' Southern Cross Charitable Trust.

*For more information on the Military Ordinariate, visit: [www.military.catholic.org.au](http://www.military.catholic.org.au). For more information about the Knights of the Southern Cross, visit: [www.ksca.org.au](http://www.ksca.org.au).*



Top right, Fr Richard Thompson speaking at the fundraising dinner; right, Anne and Bob Perkins; bottom right, (from left to right) Bronwyn Muller, Judy Pilkington, Michael Gregg, Fr Richard Thompson, Major-General Peter Phillips AO MC rtd,

Supreme Knight Colin Walsh, Air Marshal David Evans AC DSO AFC rtd, Joe Bailey, president of the Australian Anglo Indian Association of Canberra; left, Gwendolyne and Colin Griffiths.

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