



Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., August 18th, 2017

Oficina del Cardenal

Dear Dr. McDonald:

Best wishes and greetings from Honduras. With pleasure, I send this statement of support.

The extraordinary Catholic education system conducted by the Church in Australia is a sign of great hope for the Universal Church.

In particular, when I was privileged to attend the National Catholic Education Conference in Perth in 2016, I was struck by its energy, creativity and the depth of the Catholic education system in Western Australia.

It was refreshing to visit your Catholic schools in Perth, to meet your fine teachers and to encounter your beautiful Catholic young people.

I was able to see how a Catholic education system, begun by dedicated religious, has now evolved and is so faithful to the Church's mission of evangelization. I was particularly impressed by the professional competence of your committed Catholic lay people who are professionals of the first order.

Clearly you have in place excellent formation programs to deepen the Catholic identity of your schools and their leadership.

Even more importantly, under the leadership of your Metropolitan Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, I commend you for taking the initiative of boldly educating your staff, parent communities and students in the centrality of Catholic Social Teaching.

As Pope Francis never tires of preaching - our chaotic and broken world needs mercy, justice and peace. Thank you for allowing me to see first-hand how Catholic Education Western Australia takes seriously the call of our Holy Father to educate all - especially our youth- to be prophets of mercy and compassion.

With my prayers and blessings, yours in Christ,

+ *Oscar Andros Rodríguez S.D.B.*
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