

Your Eminence, Cardinal George Pell,

Dear Brothers in Priesthood,

Dear Sisters, among whom I would like to single out the Missionary Sisters of Christ the King celebrating this year their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation,

All Distinguished Guests,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ – Drodzy Bracia i Siostry w Chrystusie,

On behalf of the religious community of the Society of Christ I would like to express most sincere thanks to you for **leading us** and **joining us** in our prayer of thanksgiving as we celebrate the 50 years of our ministry to Polish migrants on this hospitable and friendly continent of Australia.

50 years is rather a short period in the history of the Church, yet we are all amazed and strengthened by the awareness of so many gifts and blessings received from God in this time span in the pastoral efforts to keep and deepen the richness of faith and of cultural heritage of our Polish compatriots. We have been dedicated to this mission according to the charism of our religious congregation, guided by the shepherds of the local Church who have proven their fatherly concern to all ethnic groups for whom Australia has become a new homeland.

Sincere words of appreciation and thanks go to all, who have put their talents, time and effort into such a successful preparation of this spirited and beautiful celebration.

From the experience of God's Providence in the blessed past we want to draw confidence and enthusiasm for our future tasks and challenges, as we strive to read correctly the signs of the times, and are eager to interpret and act on them according to God's holy will.

Your Eminence, for an inspired and efficient continuation of our humble service to God and the Church in this country, along the line" "Polonia semper fidelis – Polska zawsze wierna – Poland always faithful" we ask your pastoral blessing.