

(Media Release)

CRUSADE NUMBERS CLIMB TO OVER 34,000

After the first 5 weeks of the 3rd Knights of the Southern Cross National Prayer Crusade for Vocations, the number of participants taking part has jumped to over 34,000 people from around Australia.

Although these numbers are spread over the whole 12 weeks of the Crusade, and often people pray for many weeks, the 2nd week (13 – 19 September) was particularly noteworthy with 15,000 participants praying.

The Prayer Crusade, which finishes on 28 November 2009, is praying for an increase in vocations generally, but more particularly that more priests and deacons will be released to provide badly needed military chaplains for the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Catholic members and their families number about 40,000.

The national co-ordinator for the Crusade, Bob Perkins, encourages all Catholics to be part of the tremendous effort to pray that people will consider the priestly and religious life as a way of making use of their own particular talents to serve God and their fellow Catholics. When those who have devoted their lives to God's service are too old to work, who will fill their places? Young men and women are needed to carry on the work, particularly in the service of those called to serve their country in the Armed Forces. Chaplains minister to those who need the support of their Faith in difficult times. What must the parents of young servicemen and servicewomen feel when there is no Catholic chaplain in operational areas overseas?

Prayer works, so why not spare a minute a day for one week to pray for the needs of the Church? Your prayers will make a difference.

To take part in the KSC Prayer Crusade for Vocations, email Bob Perkins, National Executive Officer, Knights of the Southern Cross, at neo@ksca.org.au or call (02) 6247 2977 (Mon, Wed & Fri). Copies of the Registration Form can also be obtained from the National Website – www.ksca.org.au - under "What's New" .