

Marist College and the Catholic Caring Foundation warming up Auckland

The students at Marist College in Mt Albert, Auckland and the Catholic Caring Foundation are making sure people in the city will be kept warm this winter with a blanket drive. The Catholic Caring Foundation's School Programme is called 7 days of Caring and is Bishop Pat's invitation for young people in the Diocese to reach out and care for the poor and marginalised in our community.

Mrs Carolynn Phillips DRS of Marist organised a special mufti day and raffles to raise funds for the Foundation but also got her girls to go one step further. "I have over 400 young women involved in the Marist Social Justice Group. We asked our students to hunt out blankets to help out people in their neighbourhood. Keeping warm seems such a simple thing but for many it is not a reality." She goes on to say "This project sits at the heart of the Marist charism and the Gospel message of love of God and love of neighbour, something our girls strive to live by."

Mr Shane Coleman, the Development and Outreach Coordinator at the Catholic Caring Foundation commented the amazing commitment of the young women at Marist College.

"Within five minutes drive of the college, there are around half a dozen agencies that the Foundation supports including a women's refuge. The students and their families will be assured that the money they donate will go back to their community helping people who are feeling the brunt of this recession. Shane told us that the blankets will be shipped around the Diocese to refugee groups, emergency housing agencies and women's refuges to ensure those who have lost their homes have a little warmth when they arrive at these places of safety.



Over the past three years the Catholic Caring Foundation has distributed over 1.7 million dollars to community organisations within the Diocese of Auckland.