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**SUMMARY OF ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN 2024**

Today, Jesus speaks to us about the essential elements of life: food and drink. But his words go beyond physical sustenance. He declares himself as the "living bread" and his blood as "real drink," pointing to the deeper, spiritual nourishment we need to truly flourish.

Jesus isn't advocating for another diet but emphasising the spiritual food and drink necessary for eternal life—the fullness of life that surpasses mere survival. This Eucharistic language highlights the transformative power of the bread and wine, which become his body and blood, urging us to become what we consume: the body broken and blood poured out for the world's salvation.

The Annual Catholic Campaign embodies this sacrificial love. It calls us to support the Church's mission through our sacrifices, which, in turn, become part of Christ’s sacrifice for the world. Our contributions enable the Church to extend Christ’s love and support to those in need.

**Key initiatives of the campaign include:**

1. **Mary MacKillop Catholic Education Fund:** Providing access to Catholic education for students from struggling families, offering them the chance to thrive.
2. **Centacare’s Pastoral Ministries:** Offering support to victims of domestic violence, the homeless, troubled families, and those in prisons and hospitals.
3. **Holy Spirit Seminary:** Supporting the formation of future priests and caring for retired or ill priests through the Priests Foundation.
4. **Annual Grants Program:** Funding grassroots ministries and parish outreach programs to make the Church more missionary.
5. **Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre:** Expanding facilities and programs to enhance prayer and spiritual growth within the Archdiocese.

These efforts are the practical manifestations of our Eucharistic commitment to become the body broken and blood poured out for others. As we partake in the Eucharist, we are called to discern and embrace the will of the Lord, recognising our role in his sacrifice and mission.

Let us respond generously to the Annual Catholic Campaign, understanding that our support helps the Church to live out its mission, bringing Christ’s love and fullness of life to all.