

HOLY SPIRIT OF FREEDOM COMMUNITY



Introduction

The Holy Spirit of Freedom Community is a faith-based association committed to living out Christian values through prayer, action, and service. Founded in 1986 in Melbourne by Deacon Francis Feain—who was later ordained as a Permanent Deacon in 1997—the community has since expanded to various locations. Governed by its Council under the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth, it was officially recognized as a "Private Association of Christ's Faithful" [Canon 301] by Archbishop Barry Hickey in December 1999.

Nature of the Association

The Holy Spirit of Freedom Community operates within the heart of the Catholic Church, seeking to glorify God through both spiritual devotion and charitable action.

The core objectives of the community include:

1. Living a life of prayer and action that gives glory to God within the Catholic tradition.
2. Bringing God's love and healing to society's most marginalized individuals, particularly homeless youth, through friendship and evangelization.
3. Moving in the freedom of the Holy Spirit while striving for personal healing and holiness.
4. Fostering deep unity among members and extending love and hospitality to all.

Life of the Members

The community welcomes both men and women, including clerical and lay members. While rooted in Catholicism, it also embraces practicing Christians who respect Catholic teachings and aspire to live a Christian lifestyle. Members are encouraged to embody the community's special charisms, which include:

- Total self-giving to God
- Trust in Divine Providence
- Deep, dynamic love for fellow members
- A vibrant prayer life
- Compassion and support for the needy, especially the homeless
- An open-hearted spirit of hospitality
- A lifestyle aligned with Christian (Catholic) moral teachings

Our Purpose and Calling

The Holy Spirit of Freedom Community seeks to glorify God by forming a radical community of faith and love within the Church. Guided by the Holy Spirit, it serves as a witness to Jesus' preferential love for the poorest of the poor, particularly street children.

Guided by Scripture

The mission of the community is inspired by the words of Luke 4:18-19.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring glad
tidings to the poor. He has sent me to
proclaim liberty to captives and recovery
of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed
go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable
to the Lord.”

(Luke 4:18-19)



Living Our Faith in Action

The Holy Spirit of Freedom Community embodies a life of faith, compassion, and service. By fostering a strong spiritual foundation and a commitment to helping the marginalized, the community continues its calling to spread God's love and healing to those in need. Through prayer, unity, and action, members strive to be living witnesses of Christ's mission, offering hope and restoration to society's most vulnerable.

Examples of Commitment to Faith and Service

1. SNACKS ON FRIDAYS

For over 20 years, our dedicated team—Peter, Patricia, Caterina, Greg, and many other volunteers—and I have faithfully served the homeless every Friday near Victoria Market in Melbourne.

Once everything is prepared—tables, hot water, and snacks—HSOF members join hands in prayer, seeking the blessing of God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit for our service to those in need.

We offer coffee, tea, hot chocolate, instant noodles, soft drinks, tuna, baked beans, and other snacks.

Most importantly, members demonstrate compassion by engaging in heartfelt conversations, actively listening to personal stories, and offering prayers for those who seek them.

Through this ministry, we build friendships and create a safe environment where those in need feel valued and loved.

2. EASTER AND CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

In January 2021, several CCR Melbourne Coordinators were invited to witness how the Holy Spirit of Freedom Community supports the needy, particularly the homeless, every Friday. Inspired by this, they initiated an annual Easter and Christmas hamper distribution, which began in Easter 2021. The hampers contain Easter eggs and other treats, followed by Christmas hampers in December.



Thank You

Thanks to the generosity of many CCR Prayer Groups in Melbourne, the Holy Spirit of Freedom Community has been able to distribute hampers through its street ministry. What started with 100 hampers in the first year has now expanded to 150 hampers in recent years for both Easter and Christmas. Once the distribution date is announced, people experiencing homelessness patiently queue, eagerly awaiting their turn. Many look forward to receiving these hampers, as they rarely receive gifts. Their smiles and gratitude are a testament to how much these hampers mean to them.

The hamper distribution continues to this day, bringing joy and comfort to those in need, reaffirming that they are not forgotten. A heartfelt thanks goes to all members of CCR Prayer Groups in Melbourne who have generously donated and contributed to making these hampers possible. Their kindness and generosity have brought joy and a sense of being loved to many who often feel forgotten. Through their efforts, the poor and homeless are reminded that they are cared for and valued.

Join Us in Serving the Community

We trust in Divine Providence, but if you feel called to serve, we warmly welcome you to join us on Fridays.

If you wish to volunteer, please contact
John Schembri, HSOF Melbourne at +61 417 538 031 ,

to support our ministry through donations, please reach out to
Lenyce Willason, CCR Melbourne at +61 412 840 196 .

I, along with the members of HSOF,
pray that you may all be abundantly blessed with
good health, peace, joy, and God's love.

Thank you very much, and God bless.

John Schembri, HSOF Melbourne

