

FENNESCEY NAME LIVES ON

The heritage-listed Fennescey House in Wakefield St, which now houses Centacare Catholic Family Services, is a reminder of the legacy of two of the Adelaide Archdiocese's most generous benefactors, John and Mary Fennescey.

While much of their generosity was carried out anonymously, research by Flinders University Associate Professor Peter Howell last decade revealed the full extent of their donations to the Church.

In addition to the land and building costs of Fennescey House, which opened as a diocesan building in 1941, the Fennesceys' major donations included:

- Purchase of the Ennis property and 2000 pounds of furnishings on Robe Tce, North Adelaide as an Episcopal residence for Archbishop Matthew Beovich;
- Bought and donated land between St Francis Xavier's Cathedral and Victoria Square;
- Funding for the nave, the aisles, the baptistery and the first stage of the belltower of St Francis Xavier's Cathedral;
- A sum of 18,000 pounds to build a new maternity wing at the Calvary Hospital (adjoining land for the hospital was also bought in the 1930s)
- Contributed to Aquinas College, North Adelaide; St Francis Xavier Seminary and surrounding land at Rostrevor' Passionist Monastery, Glen Osmond; Our Lady of Victories Church, Glenelg;
- Bequeathed 50,000 pounds for educational and charitable purposes.

The couple accumulated their wealth from farming land on the Yorke Peninsula and then built up a sizeable property portfolio in Glenelg, where they retired in the 1920s.

Professor Howell, whose findings have been published in the first supplement to the Australian Dictionary of Biography, told *The Southern Cross* in 2005 that the Fennesceys had an "important impact on the self-esteem of Catholics by making so many things possible".

- If you have information on someone who has bequeathed to the Catholic Church or if you are interested in making a bequest, contact Jane Juniper on 8210 8223 or email her at jjuniper@adelaide.catholic.org.au