

Catholic Social Justice Council

Archdiocese of Perth

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Archdiocese of Perth Catholic Social Justice Council. In this edition we will be focussing on the 2013-2014 Social Justice Statement.

2013-2014 Social Justice Statement

This years statement strongly supports the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as described over the page, to halve world poverty and improve development for the poorest by 2015. As a prosperous nation it is time to renew our resolve to addressing poverty in our region and globally. Recent Popes have called repeatedly for action to combat world poverty. Pope Benedict XVI has emphasised how the development of peoples depends, above all, on a recognition that the human race is a single family working together in true communion, not simply a group of subjects who happen to live side by side (*Caritas in Veritate* n.53)

The Social Justice Statement for 2013-14 addresses the issues of world development and the alleviation of poverty and inequality, and call for Australians to renew its commitment to achieving the MDGs in the spirit of Christ's mission on earth.

"The struggle against destitution ... it is not enough. It is a question, rather, of building a world where every person ... can live a fully human life ... and where the poor man Lazarus can sit down at the same table with the rich man." Pope Paul VI.

Perth Diocese Launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2013-2014

Successful Launch held at the Pastoral centre: A critical moment in the fight against world poverty.

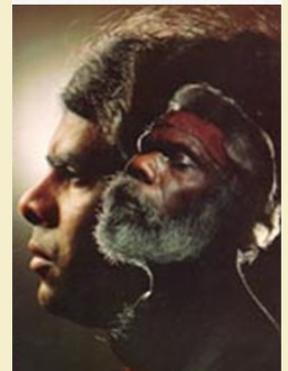
On the 22nd September our local launch of the Social justice statement took place at the Catholic Pastoral centre in Mount Lawley. Around 50 representatives of parishes and community groups heard the Archbishop challenge all Christians through the words of St Paul "The love of Christ urges us on". The Archbishop noted that this year's theme of Lazarus at our gate reflected a blindness to recognising and a failure to notice the poor at our gates, rather than a hard hearted refusal to assist those in need around us. In the statement Australia is described as the rich man in our region and the poor are knocking at our gates and the Archbishop asks of all of us "What is our response going to be?"



Talks were also given by Dr Martin Drum, Lecturer of Politics and International Relations at The University of Notre Dame Australia, Mr Daniel Chan of Caritas Australia and Bishop Wenceslao Padilla CICM, the foundation bishop of the Catholic Church in Mongolia, speaking on Mission and Poverty.

Mr Daniel Chan, described the crossroads we stand at in the fight against global poverty. 20% of the world's poorest peoples live in South East Asia, at our gates. Caritas engages in work that recognises the basic human dignity of all of these marginalised people.

2013 Newsletter
Issue 2



UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 2013

13-17th

Ecumenical Anti-poverty week

17th-12-2pm

Ecumenical Anti-Poverty Week Service, The Salvation Army, 333 William Street, Perth

15th & 26th-

Constitutional Recognition Forum. For more information contact Acacia Armstrong on 04 79 135 121 or at walkasonroad-trip@gmail.com

November 2013

3rd -

Carad "Out of the Dark" - 2.30pm, The Salvation Army, 333 William Street, Perth

If you have an upcoming event you would like included in our next newsletter please let us know.



“When we come in here we are not harassed by anyone. We can sit and talk quietly for a couple of hours and we are not judged by anyone at The Shopfront.” A Shopfront visitor.

OPENING THE GATES

For the nearly 70 volunteers, who work weekly at the Shopfront in Maylands, helping those most in need most need - men, women and children living in poverty both within and external to Australian society— is an action they continuously practice. When they open the gates, they offer practical assistance, fellowship and hospitality to our neighbours who are experiencing difficulties. For their visitors, poverty is represented through the interlinked issues of unemployment, homelessness, lack of affordable housing, social isolation, addictions, poor mental and physical health. The role and function of The Shopfront is to relieve poverty and suffering in an environment that offers practical assistance, fellowship and hospitality.

Shopfront relies on not just the support of its volunteers and dedication of its staff but the people in the many agencies like Liferlink, St Vincent de Paul Society, Lottery West Grants, Food Rescue and the Catholic colleges who contribute to the work. Likewise the public support from the local council helps maintain the much needed stable presence of Shopfront in the Maylands area.

So how can we reach out, support this work and walk in solidarity with all fellow Australians? One of the actions that we can all take, in response to that call, is suggested in the Bishops “Ten Steps towards Solidarity”, number 5. Start work in your parish – learn, form partnerships, reach out.

Ten Steps Towards Solidarity

1. Start at home!
2. Buy fair trade products
3. Support just working conditions
4. Donate
5. Start work in your parish – learn, form partnerships, reach out
6. Break the cycle of poverty for Indigenous people
7. Learn about and support refugees and asylum seekers
8. Disabilities
9. Learn about Australian aid
10. Learn about and support the Millennium Development Goals

For more information on the Ten steps, request the leaflet from your parish or download via www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

How Can I get involved? Here are 5 easy ways for you to get involved in social justice :

- 1) Volunteer your time
- 2) Write to your local MP
- 3) Get informed on social justice issues
- 4) Contact CSJC
- 5) Subscribe to ACSJC emails and statements

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UN Millennium

Development Goals

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions.



For more information go to :

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals>