



ACSJC BRIEFING

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From the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, the social justice and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia - www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

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FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council is now preparing for the launch of the Australia Catholic Bishops' 2006 Social Justice Sunday Statement in September. In this year's Statement, *The Heart of Our Country – Dignity and justice for our Indigenous brothers and sisters*, the Bishops reflect on the very important address of Pope John Paul II in 1986.

The ACSJC wishes to draw your attention to this event and some associated resources that will be available for order and/or downloading from the ACSJC website.

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on 24 September. The Statement will be launched in the week prior to Social Justice Sunday. Hard copies of the Statement can be ordered through the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

Background information and order forms for the Statement are now available on the ACSJC website. Included is a message from Archbishop Philip Wilson, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, outlining the importance of this year's Statement.

THE PATH TO RECONCILIATION – TO THE HEART OF OUR COUNTRY

Twenty years ago in Alice Springs, Pope John Paul II addressed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia as brothers and sisters with these words:

"I want to tell you right away how much the Church esteems and loves you, and how much she wishes to assist you in your spiritual and material needs."

Pope John Paul raised four important issues that day. He challenged all Australians to ensure the preservation of Indigenous cultures. He called us to seek and explore the points of agreement between Indigenous traditions and those of Jesus and all of his people. The Holy Father praised the way the Indigenous peoples had cared for the land. And, by naming past hurts and continuing injustices endured by Indigenous people, he confronted the national community of Australia with the need to move towards true reconciliation.

To the Indigenous peoples of Australia he said: "You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you. And the Church herself in Australia with not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received."

As Catholics, how have we supported Indigenous people to keep strong those elements of culture and history that they seek to preserve? Are we prepared to joyfully receive the contributions of Indigenous culture and tradition in our lives?

The full impact of Pope John Paul II's address in Alice Springs is still being realised as we continue to explore the path to reconciliation.

In their Social Justice Sunday Statement to all Catholics and people of good will, the Bishops consider many of the great achievements since these words were spoken in 1986, and what is still to be done by us all in taking up the challenges to work for reconciliation.

TO ORDER

Parishes, schools and groups can order printed copies (minimum of 10) from the ACSJC. Order form and cost details can be found on the ACSJC website:
<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - COMPLEMENTARY RESOURCES

The ACSJC produces a range of complementary resources to assist parish communities, schools and social justice groups to celebrate Social Justice Sunday.

The following resources will soon be available on the ACSJC website (<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>) and can be downloaded free of charge:

- * Social Justice Sunday Statement Summary
- * Social Justice Sunday Liturgy Notes
- * Teachers' Notes

Resources that are very useful in parishes and schools are the Social Justice Sunday Prayer Card and "Ten Steps" leaflet. These can be ordered from the ACSJC Secretariat on (02) 9956 5811.

Any assistance you can give in spreading the word about Social Justice Sunday would be greatly appreciated.

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer

CURRENT ISSUES/RESOURCES

MEDIA RELEASE – "BROADER FOCUS FOR SUMMIT ON VIOLENCE SAYS BISHOP" – 23 June 2006

Bishop Christopher Saunders called on the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs to ensure an opportunity would be taken during the Government summit on violence and abuse in Indigenous communities, on Monday 26 June, to consider more than just the enforcement of law and order. "This is a unique opportunity to begin to deal with the root causes of the violence. It is not excusing or minimising terrible crimes to point out the deeper reasons why they occur," said Bishop Saunders. "Countless enquiries, surveys and media reports have told us about the deplorable conditions in communities such as Wadeye in the Northern Territory. They all show that a broad and decisive approach is needed. In particular, creative ways to ensure greater and more effective cooperation between State and Federal governments must be employed if those at the fringe of the economic boom-times are not to be further marginalised. By looking for ways that the governments of Australia can engage with communities suffering deprivation and ill-health, the summit could explore avenues to include Indigenous leaders in the process of recovery on the pathway to a just existence," Bishop Saunders said. (refer:

http://www.acsjc.org.au/Content/media_releases/2006_06_23_1151286575.html)

HREOC PAPER – "ENDING FAMILY VIOLENCE IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES"

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has released an overview paper of research and findings by the Commission on key challenges in addressing family violence and abuse in Indigenous communities which have been identified and reported by the Commission from 2001 to 2006. Tom Calma, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, said: "The Commission's research demonstrates how violence relates to almost every aspect of policy making and service delivery in Indigenous communities. There is a need to adopt a holistic approach to address the causes and consequences of family violence. If we treat these issues simply as a law and order issue we will not achieve the necessary lasting improvements in the lives of Indigenous peoples." The paper identifies ten challenges: turning government commitments into action; Indigenous participation; support for Indigenous initiatives and networks; Human Rights education; preventing the stereotyping all Indigenous men as abusers; identifying successes; reasserting Indigenous cultural norms; robust accountability and monitoring mechanisms; changing mindsets; and targeting need. The paper can be accessed at:

http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/familyviolence/

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CATHOLIC COUNCIL – "DREAMING FROM THE HEART"

NATSICC is planning to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II's visit to Alice Springs by holding its National Assembly in the Red Centre, 2 – 7 October 2006. The original visit occurred in 1986 and was the occasion for one of the Pope's most important speeches, his address to Aboriginal people. For more information about this event and how you can be involved, and to find out about the Message Stick Relay in your part of Australia, visit:

<http://www.natsicc.org.au/>

HANDBOOK – "A NEW CHAPTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS"

The International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) have developed a joint publication, "A new chapter for human rights: a handbook on issues of transition from the Commission on Human Rights to the Human Rights Council". This most valuable resource highlights the major issues of transition from the UN Commission on Human Rights to the new Human Rights Council. It briefly describes the old system under the Commission, what the Council needs to consider and do during its first year, some of the key issues, and existing suggestions and choices. The handbook also identifies the main questions around each of these issues to generate discussion and reflection on what NGOs and defenders hope can be achieved through the system, what features they think would be useful, and better options. The handbook is supplemented by a series of annexes containing key documents, compilations and tables of information that may be useful to readers. "A new chapter for human rights" can be downloaded from the ISHR's website – go to <http://www.ishr.ch/handbook>

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS CLEARINGHOUSE

This Good Shepherd Social Justice Network webpage is an important access point for information on the global problem of trafficking in persons, which impacts particularly on women and children. The site hosts published and unpublished resources; information regarding projects aimed at combating trafficking; and substantial information on trafficking within, and initiatives aimed at eliminating, trafficking in persons in Australia and the Asia Pacific region. An NGO Shadow Report On Trafficked Women in Australia, produced by the religious congregations with Jennifer Burn and Frances Simmons and endorsed by many religious congregations and organisations, was submitted to the UN Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. This report is available at the Clearinghouse website. Visit: <http://www.goodshepherd.com.au/justice/trafficking.html>

INTERNATIONAL DETENTION COALITION

The newly formed International Coalition on Detention (IDC) of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants is a coalition of non-governmental organisations, faith based groups, academics and individuals working around the world providing services, carrying out research and reporting, and doing advocacy and policy work on behalf of refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers. These groups and individuals have come together to form the coalition in order to share information and to promote best practices on the use of detention. The IDC aims to raise awareness of detention policies and practices and to promote the use of human rights standards and principles as they relate to the detention of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Visit the IDC website at: <http://www.idcoalition.org/portal/index.php>

SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE QLD – "PATCHWORK PROJECT"

Over recent months the Social Action Office (SAO) of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, Queensland has consulted with people involved in employment and welfare services, church and community based organisations, unions and employers. These consultations have formed the basis of a community project to monitor the impact and lived experience of the new industrial relations, individual contracting and welfare to work environments. You can participate in the project: by joining a 2 hour workshop of story sharing and recording in your organisation, group or workplace; by simply reflecting on and writing up a short story of change and sending it back to SAO; or by forwarding this information to other people and/or organisations who may be interested in participating. For more detailed information on the project and its methodology or workshops, contact: (07) 3891 5866 or angela@sao.clriq.org.au Visit the SAO website: <http://www.sao.clriq.org.au/>

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

(orders Tel: 02 9956 5811 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>)

2006 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT – ORDER NOW!

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled "The Heart of Our Country – dignity and justice for our Indigenous brothers and sisters". The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement. An order form is available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SERIES PAPER: CATHOLICS AND NATURE: TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ATTITUDES IN AUSTRALIA

Concern for the environment has played a significant role in the Catholic Church in Australia since the 19th century. Fr Charles Rue SSC traces the development of environmental thought in Australian Catholicism. The paper points out that increasing awareness of and concern over environmental issues led the Australian

Catholic Bishops Conference to establish Catholic Earthcare Australia, which makes a significant contribution to the environmental debate.

The message of ecological justice came first from the Third World churches – "if you want to look after the poor, look after the earth". While describing early developments in Catholic attitudes to the natural world, Fr Rue suggests a modern-day turning point was Pope John Paul II's "loud endorsement" of Catholic involvement in environmental issues as an essential part of faith in his 1990 World Day of Peace Message. The Pope named the ecological crisis as a deep spiritual issue, linking both the glory and the suffering of nature directly to God.

What Pope John Paul II named as "ecological conversion" has brought into focus the fact that both authentic human fulfilment and a spirituality that upholds it take Earth seriously. Respect for the integrity of the natural world is integral to showing respect for humanity.

(\$6.60 a copy, plus postage – postage rates listed below)

SERIES PAPER: FROM MONEY TO MEANING: YOUNG PEOPLE AND WORK

Catholic Social Justice Series No.56 – the Australian Young Christian Workers addresses the issue of young people and casual work. (Cost \$6.60 plus postage) (postage rates listed below)

PASTORAL LETTER: THE VOICE OF VULNERABLE WORKERS IN THE CHANGING WORLD OF WORK

The Pastoral Letter issued by Bishop Christopher Saunders for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker in 2006 is available and can be downloaded from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

ACSJC BACKGROUND PAPER: STOLEN WAGES – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR JUSTICE?

This Background paper provides basic information on the circumstances facing many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and families seeking wages they were not paid for years of work. The Paper is available on the ACSJC's website:

http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/Content/pdf/2006_1_23stolen_wages_-_an_opportunity_for_justice.pdf

ACSJC DISCUSSION GUIDE: WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE

The discussion guide consists of: an overview of the Pope's message; some points for reflection and discussion; a prayer; and a guide to additional resources. It is available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

2006 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The ACSJC's 2006 Social Justice Diary, Seasons of Social Justice, focuses on social justice for Indigenous people. An excellent resource for parishes, schools and social justice groups, the diary is an educational and spiritual resource. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage.

http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html

(Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1; 2-3 copies \$1.45; 4-5 copies \$2.45)

JULY NOTICES

JULY 1–6: EXHIBITION - THE LOVELINK PROJECT (QLD). An exhibition by a cultural collective including Hori McMillan, Robert King, Dodie Eggmolesse, Sonny Au and Michael Daly at the Footsteps Gallery, 166 Ann St, Brisbane. For information, phone (07) 3229 1879.

JULY 2–9: NAIDOC WEEK: "RESPECT THE PAST – BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE" (NATIONAL). NAIDOC celebrates the survival of Indigenous culture and the Indigenous contribution to modern Australia. All Australians are encouraged to participate in NAIDOC Week activities. For information on activities near you, visit <http://www.naidoc.org.au>.

JULY 3: DOLLAR DAY, OTHERWAY MINISTRY (SA). A practical action for reconciliation with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples in SA to mark NAIDOC Week 2006. Donations can be made at the Otherway Centre, 185 Pirie St, Adelaide or by cheque or direct debit. Information: <http://www.acc.asn.au/Dollar%20Day.htm>, ring (08) 8232 1001 or email gm@acc.asn.au.

JULY 3: INFORMATION EVENING, EDMUND RICE CENTRE (WA). The Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice, Fremantle, hosts an information evening on its work and how to become involved. 5.30–7.30 pm, Edmund Rice Centre for Social Justice, 24 High St, Fremantle. For registration, ring (08) 9335 4353, fax (08) 9336 2146 or email: erc@powerdsl.com.au. Website: <http://www.ercfremantle.org>.

JULY 3–7: NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY (NSW). The Broken Bay Institute is convening this symposium at Mt St Benedict College, Pennant Hills, Western Sydney. Keynote US speakers, Dr Charlotte McCorquodale and Drs Bob and Maggie McCarty, will address "Builders and Dreamers: Creating Sustainable Ministry with Young People". Two academic courses will follow the two-day Symposium. For information contact BBI on (02) 9473 4570 or visit: <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au>.

JULY 4: PUBLIC MEETING, "EAST TIMOR, THE SOLOMONS AND AUSTRALIA" (VIC). Australia-Asia Worker Links is convening a public meeting to discuss Australia's role in supporting its neighbours. 6.00 to 8.00pm, Evatt Room, Trades Hall, Cnr Lygon & Victoria Streets, Carlton, Melbourne. For further info call (03) 9663 7277 (refer: http://www.melbourne.indymedia.org/calendar/event_display_detail.php?event_id=2180&day=4&month=7&year=2006)

JULY 4: SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB – "AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR? THE HOMELESS?" (VIC) A talk by Cheryl Sullivan & Peter Cullen. Victoria on Hyde, 188 Hyde St, Yarraville. Information: (03) 9312 3595 or visit <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

JULY 4–6: PUBLIC FORUMS, "WHITE PAPER ON AUSTRALIA'S OVERSEAS AID PROGRAM" (National) The United Nations Association of Australia is holding these forums in Melbourne (July 4), Adelaide (July 5) and Perth (July 6). To attend ring (02) 8572 5600 or by email: juliana@horizoncommunication.com.au.

JULY 5: SPIRITUALTY IN THE PUB – "RECONCILING SPIRIT – GIVING SPIRIT" (VIC) Delsie Lillyst & another speaker. Darebin Olympic Hotel, Cnr Bell & Albert Sts, Preston, Vic. Information: (03) 9471 1410 or (03) 9895 5836 or visit <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

JULY 5–7: CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION, SYDNEY SHOWGROUNDS (NSW). An exhibition in which 200 organisations demonstrate services and resources for the church. Wednesday 5 July, 9am–5pm; Thursday 6 July, 10am–6pm; Friday 7 July 10am–4pm. The Dome, Sydney Showground, Olympic Park. For more information, visit <http://www.creonline.com.au> or email info@creonline.com.au.

JULY 6: PUBLIC FORUM, "IS THIS JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS?" (NSW). Speakers Ray Jackson, Bronwyn Penrith, Dixie Gordon, and Stuart O'Connell discuss the period from the 1991 Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody to the current Law and Order response to communities in crisis. 6.00pm to 8.00pm, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-op, 55-59 Flood St, Leichhardt, Sydney. Presented by ANTaR NSW with the support of Leichhardt Council and Clubs NSW. For more info, contact melanie@antar.org.au, Ph 02 9555 6138.

JULY 6: FORUM, "JUSTICE OR APPEASEMENT – HUMAN RIGHTS IN EAST TIMOR" (VIC) United Nations Association of Australia, Victorian Division, is convening a forum with Hon. Justice Shane Marshall (Industrial Relations and Federal Courts of Australia, Supreme Court of the ACT). 7.30 pm, Balwyn Library, 336 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn (Melway 46 E8) Vic. For more information email info@unaavictoria.org.au or ring (03) 9670 7878. Website: <http://www.unaavictoria.org.au>

JULY 6: FORUM ON EAST TIMOR (NSW). AID/WATCH is co-hosting a forum on East Timor with APHEDA (Union Aid Abroad) and Unions NSW. Speakers include Dr Tim Anderson & Peter Jennings (APHEDA). 12 noon - 2pm at the Trades Hall Auditorium, 4 Goulburn St Sydney. For information, ring (02) 9557 8944 or email aidwatch@aidwatch.org.au

JULY 7: TALK ON RECONCILIATION, "HEALING CONFLICT: RECONCILIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA, INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA AND EAST TIMOR" (NSW). Uniya presents South African activist for reconciliation Michael Lapsley, interviewed by Eric Campbell. RSVP by 30 June. 6pm (starting with drinks) for 7pm – 8.30pm, 7 July, St Aloysius' College, 47 Upper Pitt St, Milsons Point, NSW (enter via Jeffrey St). Information: (02) 9356 3888 or reception@uniya.org . Website: <http://www.uniya.org>.

JULY 11 – 29: EXHIBITION, "BIG ONES LITTLE ONES 2006 – CONNECTING COMMUNITIES" (NSW). Gallery Amichi and the Boomalli Aboriginal Artists' Co-operative Galley will showcase works on paper by school students from Australia, with special overseas guests together with established and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. Open from 10.00am to 5.00pm, Tuesdays to Fridays, 55-59 Flood Street, Leichhardt, Sydney. For further information call (02) 9326 6245

JULY 12–14: CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, "OUR WORK ... OUR LIVES" (QLD). Presented by Griffith University and The Queensland Working Women's Service Inc. Rydges Hotel, 9 Glenelg Street, South Brisbane, Qld 4101. For information ring (07) 3341 8004 or email admin@portmann-events.com. Website: <http://www.qwws.org.au/OWOL.html>.

JULY 13: SBS SCREENS "TRAFFICKED" (National). This film, shown as part of Storyline Australia, documents the trafficking of a young Thai girl for sexual slavery. This is particularly relevant in view of the concerns voiced over human trafficking in connection with the World Cup. 8.30 pm, SBS.

JULY 15: PUBLIC FORUM, "CLOSE GUANTANAMO!" (NSW). The Canterbury-Bankstown Peace Group and Justice for Hicks & Habib are organising this event as part of the International Day of Action against Guantanamo, called by the UK Guantanamo Coalition which includes various human rights groups and former British Guantanamo prisoners. 12 noon at Sydney Town Hall. For further info call 0401 758 871 or 0403 037 376.

JULY 15: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON EAST TIMOR AND BENEFIT CONCERT (NSW). Presented by the Australia-East Timor Association (with the assistance of "Humanitarian Responses to the East Timor Crisis"). Discussions in two sessions from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm; concert from 1.00 to 4.00 pm. Money raised will assist the Arte Moris/Bibi Bulak Cultural Centre in Dili and its work with internally displaced people in East Timor. Petersham Town Hall (opposite Petersham Railway Station). For further information, ring (02) 9519 4788.

JULY 17: SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: "DO I PUT LIMITS ON MY GENEROSITY?" (NSW). Justice Jenny Boland and Shane Hogan in conversation. Union Hotel, Pacific Highway & West Street, North Sydney. Information: (02) 9958 5963 or visit <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

JULY 17–18: FORUM ON WELFARE REFORM, "ROAD TO WHERE? THE POLITICS AND PRACTICE OF IMPLEMENTING WELFARE-TO-WORK" (QLD). Presented by the Social Policy Unit, University of Queensland. The Carlton Crest Hotel, Cnr Ann & Roma Streets, Brisbane, Qld, 4000. Information: (07) 3365 1250; email: welfaretowork@social.uq.edu.au. Website: <http://www.uq.edu.au/swahs/welfaretowork>

JULY 19: SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: "BUILDING A DIALOGUE WITH ISLAM: WHERE DO WE START?" (VIC). Waleed Aly & John Dupuche. Tower Hotel, 838 Heidelberg Road Alphington. Information: 0417 319 556 or visit <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

JULY 20: SEMINAR, "WORK/LIFE BALANCE: FERTILITY, CHILDCARE AND I.R. LEGISLATION" (NSW). Presented by the Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW. 5.00–7.00 pm, Macquarie Bank Building, Level 22, 20 Bond St Sydney. Information: (02) 9219 2022 or email vuongt@missionaustralia.com.au. Website: <http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/confer.htm>

JULY 20–22: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEGISLATURES AND THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (VIC). The University of Melbourne's Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies presents an international conference to encourage exploration of the role and effectiveness of legislatures in protecting human rights. For information, ring (03) 8344 1011 or email cccs@law.unimelb.edu.au.

JULY 25: SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB – "TAKING IT TO THE STREETS – STREET MINISTRY" (VIC). A talk by Fr Wahid Riad. Holgate Brewhouse, Keatings Hotel, 79 High St Woodend. Information: (03) 5429 5907 or visit <http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/news.htm>.

JULY 27–28: 18TH WOMEN, MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE (NSW). Presented by the Labour-Management Studies Foundation and the Macquarie Graduate School of Management at Macquarie University. Speakers include Senator Helen Coonan and Ann Sherry AO. Sofitel Wentworth Sydney, 61–101 Phillip St, Sydney. Information: (02) 9850 8985; email: pam.morpeth@efs.mq.edu.au. Website: <http://www.lmsf.mq.edu.au/wmer>

AUGUST 2 – 22: SEMINARS, "GOOD NEIGHBOUR, BAD NEIGHBOUR: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA" (SA, VIC, NSW). A Jesuit Seminar Series for 2006 will focus on Australia's relationship with Indonesia. Prominent people in this area will be brought together to tease apart the qualities of a good and bad neighbour and suggest ways forward for better relations. Details of the seminars are as follows: August 2, Melbourne, Speakers Richard Woolcott AC, Assoc Prof Damien Kingsbury and Prof Frank Brennan; August 8, Wollongong, Dr Ed Aspinall, Duncan Campbell AM and Prof Frank Brennan; August 16, Sydney, Sidney Jones, Prof Peter King and Prof Frank Brennan; August 22, Adelaide, Dr John Bruni, John Martinkus and Prof Frank Brennan. For further information contact (02) 9356 3888 or reception@uniya.org (refer: http://www.uniya.org/news/news_seminars06.html)

(email news of your forthcoming social justice event by the last week of each month to: admin@acsjc.org.au)

JUNE NEWS MONITOR

INDIGENOUS FUNDING GOOD START BUT CARE NEEDED: BISHOP SAUNDERS: The Federal Government's offer at the Indigenous Summit of \$130 million to states to combat the problems of abuse and violence in indigenous communities was a "good beginning" but care is needed, said Australian Catholic Social Justice Council Chairman, Bishop Christopher Saunders.

FAMILIES BIGGEST LOSERS UNDER WORKCHOICES, SAY CLERICS: Speaking at a Bathurst rally, Oberon Fr Adrian Horgan said that families are the biggest losers under the new workplace laws while Bishop Kevin Manning told a Parramatta diocesan conference that the laws were "spectacularly inadequate" when tested against Catholic social teaching.

PRIEST ATTACKS "ANZUS" PACT ON UN INDIGENOUS DECLARATION: An Australian Passionist priest, Fr Kevin Dance, called for an end to efforts by Australian, New Zealand and US diplomats to block the adoption of the Declaration on Indigenous Rights at the 61st UN General Assembly.

ARCHBISHOP ACCUSES DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AUTHORITIES OF DRUGS TRADE COMPLICITY: At a Mass marking the United Nations International Day Against Drugs, a Santiago archbishop attributed the increase in drug trafficking and crime to the complicity of the military, police, judges and politicians, who "sell their conscience to the highest bidder."

GOSPEL CALL TO LIVE ECOLOGICAL LIFE: KOREAN CARDINAL:

Practising the gospel by transforming people's lives towards a "sustainable and renewable way" is a priority for Catholics, according to a pastoral letter released by Cardinal Cheong Jin-suk of Seoul.

TIMOR CHURCH TO PURSUE TRUTH AND DIALOGUE: Dili's Vicar General said the East Timor Church supports efforts to reveal the truth of former Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri's alleged involvement in arming a "hit squad" and plans to hold dialogue sessions to help ease the nation's tension.

PEACE PROTESTERS GROUNDED BY US MILITARY: A retired Oblate priest and two veterans "ate a lot of gravel" following their arrest at a non-violent action protest at a nuclear weapons launch facility in North Dakota.

POPE CONGRATULATES PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT FOR DEATH PENALTY BAN: Pope Benedict told the Philippine President Gloria Arroyo "well done" at their Vatican meeting for outlawing the death penalty but local bishops have warned that the move was not enough to win "moral affirmation" for her presidency.

JAYAPURA JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE ALLEGES ABUSE IN PAPUA:

The Jayapura Diocese Office of Justice and Peace accused Indonesian police of torturing 23 Papuans arrested after violent protests in March, alleging cases of physical and mental abuse, and intimidation of prisoners.

WOMEN RELIGIOUS GEARING UP FOR RALLY AGAINST TRAFFICKING:

Leaders of Australia's religious congregations staged a lunchtime rally in Adelaide to protest against human trafficking in Australia.

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS CALLS FOR AID IN CONGO CHAOS: Caritas Internationalis launched a new emergency aid appeal for people displaced by the world's largest ongoing conflict between militias and government forces in the Ituri district of Congo.

BISHOPS' REFUGEE OFFICE SLAMS PROPOSED ASYLUM CHANGES: As resistance to unjust asylum laws grows around the world, Australian Catholic and Migrant Refugee Office director, Fr John Murphy, labelled the Federal government's proposed asylum law changes as "complicated and silly."

NEGLECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AT OWN PERIL, MEXICAN BISHOP TOLD GOVT: As Mexico prepares to elect a new president next month, a Mexican Bishop in the poor Chiapas state criticised candidates for failing to keep previous campaign promises and for ignoring the plight of indigenous people.

CATHOLIC BODIES HAIL NEW UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: Pax Christi, Franciscans and Dominicans welcomed the launch of the new United Nations Human Rights Council which replaces the much criticised UN Human Rights Commission.

BENEDICT'S FIRST SOCIAL ENCYCLICAL PREDICTED FOR 2007: Pope Benedict will next year release his first social encyclical on globalisation to coincide with the 40th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, an Italian newspaper predicts.

CARITAS BRIDGES GAP FOR ABORIGINAL YOUTH PROJECT: Caritas stepped in to ensure funding for an Aboriginal health agency youth scheme in Western Australia's Western Desert region following the withdrawal of WA State Government support.

ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT CREDITS CHURCH FOR DEBT CANCELLATION: Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa expressed his appreciation for the role played by the Church in the lifting of Zambia's external debts through the Jubilee Zambia program.

CHURCH GROUPS STEP UP FIGHT AGAINST DETENTION CENTRES: The international community should cooperate in the fight against detention, Cardinal Renato Martino said at the Rome launch of a global interfaith coalition against refugees' detention.

PNG BISHOP CALLS FOR LIFE BAN ON CORRUPT LEADERS: NSW-born Archbishop Brian Barnes of Port Moresby called for Papua New Guinea leaders guilty of serious official misconduct to be banned from public office for life in order to weed out deep-seated corruption in government.

INDIAN PRIEST COMPARES INDIA'S CHILD LABOUR TO AFRICA SLAVE TRADE: Speaking on World Day Against Child Labour an Indian priest, Fr Jose Vattakkuzhy, claimed that India's economic progress is made possible by conveniently ignoring the social malady of child labour.

VATICAN OFFICIALS SLAM PROMOTION OF PROSTITUTION AT WORLD CUP: Vatican officials joined a chorus of criticism against human trafficking and the promotion of prostitution during the World Cup which opens tonight in Germany.

CHURCH IN PHILIPPINES HAILS DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION: The Bishops' Conference in the Philippines described the country's decision to abolish the death penalty as a "step that takes the country from justice that kills to justice that heals."

FORUM TOLD CATHOLICS MORE TOLERANT OF CORRUPTION: A speaker at a Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace forum on corruption in the developing world said that countries with a predominantly Catholic population tend to be more corrupt and that the average citizen in these countries tends to be more tolerant of corruption.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES BAULKS AT COOPERATION WITH HARSH POLICY: Catholic Social Services Executive Director Frank Quinlan said that agencies in his network do not want to become "agents of harsh Government policy" by accepting contracts to manage the finances of people whose welfare is axed for eight weeks.

PAX CHRISTI TELLS US TO GET OVER "ENEMY" VIEW OF IRAN: US peace group Pax Christi said that Americans must overcome its stereotype of Iran in order to better assess President George Bush's claims that the Muslim nation is building nuclear weapons.

BRENNAN WARNS OF COST OF EMBRYOS MORAL PURITY: Jesuit human rights advocate Fr Frank Brennan said that an attitude of moral purity towards experimentation with embryos "will do nothing to command the respect or assent of lawmakers wanting to know the appropriate legal limits to impose."

JOSEPHITE CALL TO GO BENEATH SURFACE IN TALK OF ABORIGINAL VIOLENCE: The "tone" of recent talks about violence in Aboriginal communities is worrying the Josephites, who called for more consideration of the deeper problems of dispossession and poverty.

- courtesy Church Resources' CathNews, stories in detail at <http://www.cathnews.com/news/606>

JULY SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

JULY 2 - 8 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & ISLANDER WEEK

Every year, in the first week of July, Indigenous Australians throughout the country celebrate together the survival of Aboriginal peoples, the continuation of Aboriginal culture and the contribution that Indigenous Australians make to the nation. A special day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was first observed in 1938. This National Aboriginal and Islander Day Of Commemoration evolved into its current week-long celebrations. The aim of the week is to promote the rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage to all people on a regional, national, and even international level. It is also a celebration of the uniqueness of Indigenous traditions and cultures and recognition of the on-going struggle for justice and equality for Indigenous people. NAIDOC developed during the late 1950's as a way for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to bring issues that concerned them to the attention of governments and the general public. NAIDOC is now used widely to refer to all the events and celebrations that go on during National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Week.

JULY 2 ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY

In 1994, the Catholic Church officially designated the first Sunday in July as Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday, thus encouraging Catholics locally to focus their worship on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their culture and the issues of social justice they represent.

Each year, the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council produces a Resource Kit for Parishes and Schools to use for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday.

National Aboriginal & Islander Catholic Council: <http://www.natsicc.org.au>

Aboriginal Sunday is a time for celebration of a unique and beautiful culture and a time to recognise that much still has to happen in our nation for true recognition of that culture and for a real and lasting justice for our peoples. It is my hope and the hope of NATSICC that celebration of Aboriginal Sunday will help to re-ignite, or re-birth, the movement of National Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Vicki Walker, Chair NATSICC, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday, 2003

JULY 12 ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAGS

The Aboriginal flag was designed by Harold Thomas, a Luritja man from Central Australia. It was created as a symbol of unity and national identity for Aboriginal people during the land rights movement of the early 1970s. Gary Foley took the flag to the east coast where it was promoted and eventually recognised as the official flag of the Australian Aboriginal people. The flag was first flown at Victoria Square in Adelaide on National Aborigines Day, 12 July, 1971. The flag was chosen as the official flag for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra and was first flown there in 1972. In 1995, the Australian Government proclaimed the flag as an official 'Flag of Australia' under section 5 of the Flags Act.

The symbolic meaning of the flag colours (as stated by Mr Harold Thomas) are:

- * Black represents the Aboriginal people of Australia
- * Red represents the red earth, the red ochre and a spiritual relationship to the land.
- * Yellow represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector.

The Torres Strait Islander Flag was created as a symbol of unity and identity for Torres Strait Islander peoples, designed by the late Bernard Namok, then a 15 year old school student from Thursday Island. It was the winning entry from a design competition held as part of a Cultural Revival Workshop, organised by The Islands Coordinating Council in January 1992. It was recognised by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission in June 1992 and given equal prominence with the Aboriginal flag. In July 1995, it was recognised by the Australian Government as an official 'Flag of Australia' under the Flags Act.

Each part of the flag is designed to represent something about Torres Strait Island culture:

- * Green represents the land
- * Blue represents the sea
- * White represents peace
- * Black represents the Indigenous peoples.

The dhari (headdress) represents Torres Strait Island people and the five pointed star represents the five major Island groups. The star also represents navigation, as a symbol of the seafaring culture of the Torres Strait.

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