

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION REPORT

On Saturday, September 2, members of the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met with Bishop Paul Bird in Ballarat.

Catholic Social Teaching Professional Development Day planned for 2018

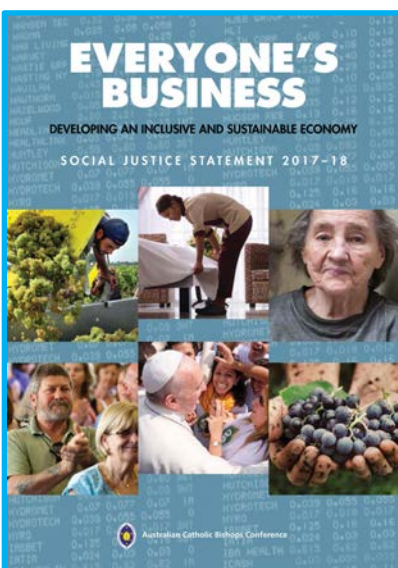
The Commission recognises that teachers in our schools need a growing understanding of social justice and Catholic Social Teaching to enable discussion and responses in the classroom. The Commission is developing a training day for teachers to further understand the Christian response of compassion. The in-service is named “Sharing the Story” and it is hoped that it can be offered to schools in 2018. The Commission experienced the first session of this training called ‘Sharing the Story – Self’.

Family Matters: Strengthening Respectful Relationships - Forums

The Commission reflected on the two Family Matters Forums on family held in Ballarat and Warrnambool. Comments praised the excellence of the speakers and the support of Centacare. Members of the Commission were amazed at the number of services that Centacare provide. The Commission was saddened that the forum planned for Mildura had to be cancelled due to lack of registrations. A website will be promoted to all parishioners and staff in schools in coming weeks sharing Fr Frank Brennan’s opening presentation and a number of workshops.

St Vincent de Paul Society

St Vincent de Paul have been publishing and updating papers on different issues that relate to their services. These highlight issues of poverty and the impact that lack of funds has on daily living. These can be accessed through the Society.



Social Justice Statement: “Everyone’s Business – Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy”

The Commission Chairperson, Tony Haintz, recently attended the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council Diocese Gathering in Sydney, where the 2017 Australian Bishops’ Social Justice Statement was reviewed. This year the Social Justice statement follows-up on the publication of “Common Wealth for Common Good”, released 25 years ago. This statement, “Everyone’s Business – Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy”, will be launched this month and should be available in all parishes and online for Social Justice Sunday on September 24. It is a very challenging and powerful statement. The statement aligns what it has to say with the United Nations Sustainable Goals and is recommended reading for parish and school communities. (<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/social-justice-statement-2017-18>).

Tony Haintz - Chair of BDSJC