

OCTOBER 2017 ~ Celebrating WORLD MISSION MONTH and ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

Proverbs 22:2 Rich and poor have a common bond: the LORD is the maker of the

October has two foci that may impact your school and/or local parish community!

<p>World Mission Month: promoting by Catholic Mission (Oct 2017).</p>	<p>Anti-poverty Week in October 2017 Sunday 15 October and ends on Saturday 21 October. Prayers of intercessions - here</p>
<p>Global effort to raise awareness. <i>World Mission Day is celebrated every year in every country wherever there are Catholics committed to building a better world for all of God's people, a world where everyone has all they need to live a dignified and fulfilling life. It is the day on which we reflect on the urgency to proclaim the Gospel in our times." Catholic Mission</i></p> <p>Australian schools and parishes are encouraged to educate and engage in global mission and justice through prayer, action, giving, and cross-cultural immersion. Matthew 18:5 ... <i>and whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.</i></p> <p>This year World Mission Day is Sunday 22nd October 2017.</p>	<p>Highlighting the issues within Australia.</p> <p>Anti-Poverty Week is coordinated by a coalition of community and social welfare organisations from across Australia.</p> <p>The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week include strengthening public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty. Everyone is encouraged to take part in or organise an activity aiming to highlight or overcome issues of poverty and hardship.</p> <p>Valuable references to poverty are summarised here within numerous encyclicals.</p> <p>Actions: Investigate and discuss what form of poverty exists in your community? What can you do to highlight this issue in your community?</p>
<p>In what ways can your community respond to these important awareness campaigns during October, 2017?</p>	

Prayer For Forgotten Nations (www.thesanctuarycentre.org)

Leader: God of the broken, and the forgotten, Father of the overlooked, and the down-trodden Your eyes see everyone – each one is made in your image. **All: We lift to you all who live in unseen poverty.**

Leader: God of the distant shores, and the islands Father of the obscure, and the powerless You seek justice for all nations – each one is precious to you. **All: We lift to you all nations that are out of the public's interest or awareness.**

Leader: Move our eyes beyond the media And lift our faith above statistics. Help us to see through this week's fashionable cause And remember the places where the cameras are no more, or have never been. Deliver us from our fear of what is different, and our indifference to where we do not know. **All: Remind us Lord, of your passion for the nations. Restore in us Lord, your heart for the nations. Amen.**

"The future of humanity does not lie solely in the hands of great leaders, the great powers and the elites. It is fundamentally in the hands of peoples and in their ability to organize. It is in their hands, which can guide with humility and conviction this process of change. I am with you."
Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*

CST principle: Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable “A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.”

What is poverty and the understanding the different forms of poverty?

Material poverty can be explored as below:

Poverty Economics

- How many Australians/refugees are living beneath the poverty line?
- Wages men/women?
- What is the ethnicity % rate Eg. Indigenous Australians, refugees, Does this have an impact upon food security for low income families? Access to medical care? Education?
- The unemployed (intergenerational disadvantage - persistent unemployment, social exclusion, restricted opportunities and low expectations)
- Affordable Housing - The Homeless

Other forms of poverty:

- Loneliness
- Isolation
- The disadvantaged, (physical, mental, educational (chn in low income or social security dependent)
- Inequality in Australia Eg. Financial - low Income, wealth, Social, Cultural
- Slave labour

“More than 730,000 children live in poverty (one child in six) in Australia.. In single-parent families, four children in ten now live in poverty. After 25 years of uninterrupted economic growth, we can do better than this!” *David Morawetz, Australian Communities Foundation (Social Justice Fund)*

Taken from Poverty in Australia 2016 p23

Who lives in Poverty in Australia?

- How many families are experiencing homelessness in your local area?
- What is the poverty rate of seniors in our diocese, your community?
- Poverty by Ethnicity? What is the unemployment rate of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander's? What percentage of Indigenous Australians are living below the poverty line?

Scripture Quotes:

Matthew 25:34-41 “inherit the kingdom prepared for you...”

Luke 10:25-37 The Parable of the Good Samaritan

John 11: 38-43 Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

Sirach 18: 25 “Remember the time of hunger in the time of plenty, poverty and want in the day of wealth.”

Sirach 40:24 A brother, a helper, for times of stress; but better than either, charity that rescues.

“In economic life, free markets have both clear advantages and limits; government has essential responsibilities and limitations; voluntary groups have irreplaceable roles, but

cannot substitute for the proper working of the market and the just policies of the state” (no. 7).

“Society has a moral obligation, including governmental action where necessary, to assure opportunity, meet basic human needs, and pursue justice in economic life” (no. 8).

Taken from:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/economic-justice-economy/upload/catholic-framework-economic-life.pdf>

Possible actions :

- Explore the variety of root causes of poverty – globally, locally.
- Get to know your local area - what are some ways that the basic needs of individuals are not being addressed in your community? (Charitable Works - Eg. St Vincent de Paul, Centacare programs).
- Is this issue one that you can raise with your local politician? (What aspects of government policy need to change?)
- Organize an activity aimed to highlight or overcome the issues of poverty and hardship in your area.
- Could you organise a collection of unwanted and quality goods to donate to St Vincent de Paul especially in the lead up to Anti-poverty week. Funds go toward supporting people in need.

Recommendation

Investigate and discuss what form of poverty exists in your community?

What can you do to highlight this issue in your community? Broader community?

Need Frank Smith's permission:

10 WAYS OF RELATING TO THE POOR

For 22 years I have ministered in team ministry amongst Australia's poor. IN the light of these experiences and after a great deal of reflection I would like to present 10 ways of relating to the poor. I hope these ways may facilitate an understanding of where we, individuals and communities, may be in relation to the poor.

When I speak of 'the poor' I mean the materially poor i.e. those who so lack the basic goods of life that they are degraded as human beings and disempowered in society.

In third world countries poverty is usually highly visible, to be poor is often to be confronted with death. IN the face of such prospects the poor are still usually able to maintain the close relationships of the extended family and of lived community.

In first world countries such as Australia, however, poverty is not always as acute and very often is associated with broken family relationships; ill health, drug and alcohol addiction, and alienation from neighbourhood and society.

Jesus' mission was largely among the poor. So a key part of living the gospel as Christians is to bring good news to the poor.

The 10 ways presented below are offered to facilitate discussion about our ministry among the poor and to help us ask such questions as: Where are we now? Where are our communities?

WAY ONE: LITTLE OR NO AWARENESS OF THE POOR.

Although images of poverty are seen on TV they seem distant and don't impinge on our awareness. We may have little or no awareness of the poor in Australia; we may even believe that "we have no real poverty".

We are not aware that poverty actually exists in Australia (for example e.g. among single parents, Aboriginal people, Refugee immigrants.)

Poverty is concentrated also in such areas as Delacombe, Heidelberg West, Colac West and Wendouree West.

WAY TWO: INITIAL DAWNING AWARENESS OF THE POOR.

This is usually sparked off by something such as reading about poor people, hearing about them, seeing a poor person or meeting a poor family.

WAY THREE: GROWING AWARENESS OF THE POOR.

This comes about through some event which exposes us to the poor, such as staying with a poor person, visiting the poor or living among the poor.

WAY FOUR: FEELINGS AROUSED.

Consciousness of the poor arouses feelings of sadness, guilt, anger and pity. At this stage we ask: how can people be by this way? How can people be treated this way?

WAY FIVE: ACTION STRESSING MERCY.

Action to help the poor e.g. through clothing and food distribution.

WAY SIX: LISTENING TO THE POOR.

This is not so much about relating to the poor as subjects to be helped, but rather as agents of their own destiny. This way stresses justice. As we listen to the poor, we become aware of them as persons in their own right.

WAY SEVEN: "INCARNATION" AMONG THE POOR.

This way involves an increasing identification with the poor. For those living with middle class securities this identification can never be complete. However, such incarnation can take place by living among poor people or by exercising a direct ministry among / with them. Those who take this action often experience an ongoing deep inner conversion.

WAY EIGHT: SHARING THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE POOR.

When viewing the world and making decisions a person's conscience always takes account of the poor. This involves such fundamental decisions as where and how money is spent and how resources are allocated.

WAY NINE: WORKING WITH THE POOR IN THE PROCESS OF LIBERATION.

This often brings with it risk or danger to our reputation. In some cases it may lead to physical violence.

WAY TEN: ELIMINATION OF POVERTY AND SHARING OF RESOURCES.

This way is somewhat utopian but it is a vision to be worked towards. This is to happen in such a way as to not persecute those who were once oppressors.

Audience: to be sent to all schools and parishes this month.

Highlights in the Month of October

- Catholic Mission Month. (World Children's Mission Day, Wednesday 25th).
Global effort to raise awareness. In Australian schools and parishes to educate and engage Australian's in global mission and justice through prayer, action, giving and cross-cultural immersion. Giving special preference to those children most vulnerable. Encouraging children to care for other children in the name of, and welcoming as, Jesus. (Cf. Matthew 18:5 ... *and whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.*)
- Anti Poverty Week 15th – 21st October, 2017
Anti-Poverty Week is coordinated by a coalition of community and social welfare organisations from across Australia. The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to: strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty around the world and in Australia; encourage research, discussion and action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments to address the problem of poverty.

The Bishop's Social Justice Commission commends both of these most worthy events to schools and parishes for October and asks that you consider the different ways to support both efforts.

Catholic Mission provides resources to highlight the work of the Church in raising awareness in your communities.

Anti-Poverty Week – There are many forms of poverty that people experience: - poverty of economics, isolation, disadvantaged, etc. Ask the question, who lives in poverty in our broader community? What forms of poverty exists in our community? Is it being addresses, if not, how can this be highlighted and addressed?

Recommendation:

Attachment to assist in the process:

10 ways of relating to the poor. Fr. Frank Smith CSsR.

Scripture examples to relate to our Gospel teachings:

Matthew: 25:34-41 *Clothe, prison*

Luke 10:25-37 *Good Samaritan*

John 11: 38-43 *Lazarus - unbinds the wounds*