



BDSJC Report

September 2017

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

Catholic Social Teaching Professional Development Day planned for 2018

The Commission has developed a Catholic Social Teaching training day for teachers in our schools. This day is designed to explore the importance of social justice as a lifelong vocation focusing on empathy, understanding and compassion. The Commission experienced the first session of this training called 'Sharing the Story – Self'. Part of training is developing a knowledge and understanding of the Church's social teaching.

Family Matters: Strengthening Respectful Relationships - Forums

The Commission reflected on the two forums on family held in Ballarat and Warrnambool. Comments praised the excellence of the speakers and the support of Centacare. Of great interest was the number of services that Centacare provide across the diocese. The Commission was disappointed that the forum planned for Mildura was cancelled due to lack of support. 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 Society have been publishing papers on different issues that relate to their services. Recent issues highlight the level of poverty across our National and the impact of lack of funds on daily living.

Social Justice Statement: "Everyone's Business – Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy"

The Chairman, Tony Haintz, recently attended a meeting 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. It is a very challenging and powerful statement. Ordering resources is available to all parishioners and staff or can now be downloaded (<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/social-justice-statement-2017-18>). The statement draws on the United Nations Sustainable Goals and it a recommended read for parish and school communities.

Tony Haintz
Chair of BDSJC