



**CATHOLIC COMMISSION
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

SATURDAY 17TH MARCH 2007

11:00 AM

PARISH HALL CUREPE



Archdiocese of Port of Spain



Catholic Commission for Social Justice (CCSJ)

Episcopal Vicar/Chair: Rev. Fr. Michael Moses

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *Our Lady of Fatima Church Hall Bushe Street, Curepe Saturday March 17, 2007*

Prayer for Justice and Peace:

O God, open our hearts to the gifts of your Holy Spirit as we seek to promote Your reign here in Trinidad and Tobago. Help us to become a nation where peace is built with justice and justice is guided by love, love of God and love of neighbour.

Help us to rediscover and live our faith so that our concern for social justice will be transformed into constructive action as we spread the Good News in this land.

We ask you, O God, to guide and bless all our efforts. Inspire us as you did the Prophets of old with courage, imagination, and creativity. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

AGENDA:

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|------------|--|
| 11:00 a.m. | Registration |
| 11:15 a.m. | Opening Prayer, Welcome and Address by His Grace, Most Revd. Edward J. Gilbert, C.Ss.R |
| 11:25 a.m. | CCSJ Report and Questions, Father Michael Moses, Chair of CCSJ |
| 11:45 a.m. | Financial Report and Questions, Mario Young, Treasurer, CCSJ |
| 12:05 p.m. | Vote of Thanks |
| 12:10 p.m. | Closing Prayer followed by Lunch |

The Way Forward Together

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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A. THE CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Introduction

Upon my appointment as Episcopal Vicar/Chair of the Catholic Commission for Social Justice, (effective from 2nd March, 2006), I immediately went on study leave to Fordham University (7th – 19th March), in order to have a clearer insight as to the responsibilities of the post. I am deeply grateful for the hospitality I received from Avery Cardinal Dulles S.J. and his team.

One of my personal research "discoveries" while at Fordham is summarized in a one page outline entitled "The Cultivation of Moral and Social Virtues are the Foundation for the Building of a Just Society" (See Appendix I).

I "discovered" that the Social Encyclicals from 1891 (*Rerum Novarum*) – 1991 (*Centesimus Annus*), had a common foundational teaching thread, namely, that the attainment of the common good in society can only be realized if people practice virtue at home, in the market place and in positions of political and civic leadership (*Rerum Novarum*, #41).

The recently promulgated Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church (© 2004), in the last paragraph of its Introduction, makes it clear that a "society based on peace, justice and solidarity" can become a reality "if individual men and women and their communities are able to cultivate moral and social virtues in themselves and spread them in society" (#19). This seems to be the hermeneutical key that opens up the entire teaching of the Compendium, for without virtue there is disorder in the soul and deficient justice within Nations and between Nations (*Centesimus Annus* #17, 46).

It is not without significance that the first published acknowledgement/affirmation by His Grace, during my tenure, of the invaluable work of the CCSJ, was given under the title: "Crime/Violence vs. Values/Virtues – Pt. 1 (pg 20, Catholic News, Sunday, January 21, 2007). (See Appendix 2). In Pt 2 (pg 24, Catholic News, Sunday January 28th, 2007) His Grace requested that each Department Head of the Archdiocese "begin dialogue to analyze the challenge presented by crime and violence." He has asked that each Department "try to plan, within their own competence, a response to the clear need to strengthen value/virtuous living programmes in the Archdiocese."

2. A Review of the Union Village/Aluminium Smelter Controversy

On Thursday 30th March, commissioned by the CCSJ, Ms. Paula-Marie Granado and myself accompanied by Mrs. Gitlin Aleong of Trinity Communications Network (TCN), led by our tour-guide Fr. Wilfred John visited the people of Union Village and then went on to the Chatham/Cap-de-Ville Area.

On Friday 31st March, I sent off a letter to the Honourable Prime Minister Mr. Patrick Manning requesting an audience with him concerning the Union Village impasse and the Aluminium Smelter Controversy. My letter was apparently faxed to the CEO of the National Energy Corporation (NEC) Mr. Prakash Saith.

Special thanks to fellow Commissioner Mr. Eldon Warner, first CEO of the NEC (many years ago!), who accompanied me on that historic day (Friday 7th April, 2006) when we attended a meeting on invitation of Mr. Prakash Saith. Mr. Saith acknowledged receipt of a copy of a letter dated 31st March, 2006 from the Chair of the CCSJ to the Honourable Prime Minister. He welcomed the opportunity to meet with CCSJ representatives as we discussed the Union Village relocation issue. Thus began a series of meetings with the NEC, the National Gas Company (NGC), Government Officials and meetings with the people of Union Village at their Village Council Meetings. I want to personally acknowledge an unsung hero in all of this – Mr. Mike Hamilton – the then Operations Manager of La Brea Industrial Development Company Limited (LABIDCO). Also, Sr. Paul Clarke! Thank you for the love you have for your people and the trust they have in you!

Words cannot express our gratitude to Dr. Ivan Chang-Yen, Senior Lecturer in Analytical Chemistry of the University of the West Indies, who researched in depth on behalf of the CCSJ the pros and cons of the establishment of Aluminium Smelters in Trinidad, especially in the South-West Peninsula. As his “research assistant” (with regard to Smelters), I came to realize that my Bachelor of Science background was not in vain! Dr. Chang-Yen’s research played a pivotal role in bringing balance to a highly politicized issue. Mr. Keith Awong, Chairman of the N.G.C., recognizing the non-political contribution of the CCSJ benefited from a power-point presentation by Dr. Chang-Yen on the Smelter issue.

The CCSJ’s position, based on the work of Dr. Ivan Chang-Yen, was presented at the two major Aluminium Smelter Symposiums

- a. Aluminium Smelter Symposium hosted by the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Collaboration with University of the West Indies (UWI), University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and the NEC (6th December 2006)
- b. Aluminum Smelting: Environmental and Engineering Perspectives, hosted by the Faculty of Engineering, UWI (10th February 2007)

Our Press Release (dated 21st July, 2006) on the Aluminium Smelter issue sent a powerful message to the Nation and gave encouragement to the embattled people of Union Village and the people of Chatham/Cap-de-Ville. Special thanks to Mrs. Annette des Iles, the main drafter of the document, as well as to Dr. Chang-Yen whose research summary contributed significantly to the foundational ideas of the Press Release.

As CCSJ, we also aligned ourselves with Professors John Spence and Julien Kenny, true scientists in their respective fields, as we spearheaded an intellectual offensive in support of the people of Chatham/Cap-de-Ville, ably led by their spiritual leader Fr. Wilfred John. Many in the nation came together in opposing mere economic development and in support of Authentic Sustainable Development (inclusive of a healthy environment and an agricultural vision, etc): A Solidarity emerged that brought victory, as our Prime Minister capitulated on Christmas Eve Night, Sunday 24th December, in his Christmas Eve Message to the Nation: **“We have decided to immediately discontinue all plans to establish an Industrial Estate in Cap-de-Ville.”** No to Alcoa! Power to the People! Thanks be to God!

“The biological uniqueness of the South West Peninsula makes it a prime area for declaration as an Environmental Sensitive Area under the Environmental Management Act (EMAct)” (Prof Julien Kenny). Plans are on the way to prepare a completed review of the data for submission to the Ministry of the Environment!

The CCSJ appreciates the affirmation of Professor John Spence and Fr. Wilfred John (See Appendix 3 & 4 respectively), regarding our work over the last year with regard to the Smelter controversy. We have added good news, in that on Friday 9th March Mr. Elijah Gour, Chairman of the Union Village Council, La Brea, informed us that the NEC had decided not to relocate Union Village, but instead to preserve the village while relocating the Urea Ammonium Nitrate Plant to Point Lisas and using the adjacent cleared area for light manufacturing industries! We continue to fight the good fight!

3. Lecturing

On January 6th at the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) Conference I was asked to give a Workshop entitled: “Breaking the Yoke of Violence.” The research conducted prior to this presentation served to prepare me for subsequent media interviews that focused on crime intervention strategies. (See Appendix V)

A highlight of the year for me was the privilege to coordinate nine hours of Lectures as part of Fr. Eddy Birmingham’s Special Ethics Course at the Seminary’s Theological Faculty. The invitation by Fr. Birmingham, Dean of the Seminary, was a special gift. The Lecture Series was entitled “Industrialization (as exemplified by Aluminium Smelters) and Sustainable Development – (Ethical Implications: Catholic Social Teaching).” Assisting me in this very exciting course were Dr. Ivan Chang-Yen, Professors John Spence, Julien Kenny and Dennis Pantin. We dealt with the following sub-topics:

1. The Environment and Health
2. Biodiversity
3. Alternatives to Smelting

4. Industrialization and Sustainable Development - Economic considerations

4. Trinity Cross Debate

The CCSJ supported the Archbishop in formulating a statement (Issued July 18, 2006) on the Trinity Cross debate. This was subsequent to the CCSJ's issue of a preliminary Press Release on the 7th June, 2006. Many thanks to Dr. Hollis Liverpool and Mrs. Marian O'Callaghan for their contribution in clarifying the attendant issues.

5. Reintegration Centre

Fr. Matthew d'Hereaux, along with Fr. Jason Gordon and the Chair of the CCSJ, played a pivotal role in the establishment of a proper system of Capacity Building measures for the construction and maintenance of the Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre (APRC).

6. 'Ask Why?' Programme

The Ask Why? programmes continue to be an interesting tool for heightening the sensitivity of the public on relevant issues. Beside the smelter controversy, we have been encouraging discussion on Agriculture, Good Governance, the debate on the Constitution, poverty and the crime situation.

A special thanks to Mrs. Gitlin Aleong and the Team at Trinity Communications Network for their invaluable input and heartfelt commitment to the vision of the Ask Why? Programme. Special thanks as well to Sr. Teresa Vialva for her generous support as facilitator on the programme.

7. Parish Link Teams

The CCSJ is deeply grateful to Ms. Maureen Arneaud and her team for the tremendous work they are doing in setting up Parish Link Teams for Social Justice and for her leadership role in facilitating the collaboration of various Parish Link teams towards common projects.

8. Interdepartmental Collaboration

With the appointment of Fr. Jason Gordon as Vicar for Administration, there is renewed hope that there will be meaningful collaboration and unity in Mission among the various Archdiocesan Departments.

Fr. Jason is very keen on the CCSJ teaming up with the Education, Family Life and Catechetical Commissions in coordinating a unified effort targeting Catholic Schools and Confirmation Classes with a systematic Abstinence Curriculum and Clubs programme. The Abstinence Programme, trains young people in virtuous

living and is an effective tool in reducing the nation's Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) rate, particularly that of HIV/AIDS.

9. Retreat

A highlight of the year was the CCSJ's retreat held on 6th February 2007. Mr. Selwyn Bhajan served as our Facilitator. At this event participants were asked to indicate what they thought should be the image of the Commission. The conclusion of all the thoughts was encapsulated in the following statement:

A fearless united voice challenging injustice, **awakening social consciousness** and **fostering integral development.**

We look forward with great hope for our follow-up meetings as we restructure and continue to strategically plan the way forward.

10. Conclusion

We believe that the stagnation of some subcommittees as well as the present lack of an Administrative Assistant will be addressed as we employ the capable team of Mr. Selwyn Bhajan and Fr. Jason Gordon along with the expertise of our Commissioners.

I would like to thank Ms. Rita Potts for her secretarial help and faithfulness to the call of duty during the past year.

I would especially like to thank the Management Committee for their invaluable support and advice along the way. Ms. Nadine Bushell, as secretary within the Management Committee and at monthly meetings of the Commission, has done yeoman's service.

The way forward is hopeful as I congratulate everyone for a fruitful year in His Service.

B. THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Report for year ending 06-12-31

1. Greetings

Your Grace, Archbishop of Port of Spain, Edward Gilbert, Fr. Michael Moses, Episcopal Vicar / Chair, Catholic Commission for Social Justice, Fellow Members of CCSJ, Members of the Catholic Community, Ladies and Gentlemen.

A pleasant good morning to all.

It gives me pleasure to present this Financial Report at this Fourth Annual General Meeting of CCSJ.

2. Executive Summary

CCSJ continued its work of reaching out to the Catholic Community and raising funds on behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago Reintegration Foundation (TTRF).

In this year under review, CCSJ received in donations and other contributions a little over \$450,000 and paid over to TTRF just over \$770,000.

Remaining in the coffers of CCSJ, we have just over \$54,000.00, not to mention the Government Allocation of \$148,741 which CCSJ is committed to pass on to TTRF.

3. Details of Inflows and Expenditure to December 31st 2006.

Expenditure of Chancery Funds.

The total expenditure of Chancery funds for the period under review amounted to \$163.5k.

The major categories of expenditure being:

1. Capital costs - \$6k.
2. Stipends and staff costs - \$49k.
3. Parish Link program - \$29k.
4. TTRF - \$14k.
5. Other operating - \$65k.

As in previous years, a number of projects of sub-committees did not materialize in terms of utilization of budgeted funds.

Inflows and Expenditure of CCSJ generated funds_

Inflows:

There were no major fundraising events in 2006. Of the \$450k raised in the year, two substantial donations of TT\$100k and US\$50k were received.

We also earned \$21k in interest on our bank deposits.

Outflows:

During the course of the year CCSJ paid \$170k towards the construction of the APRC. At the end of the year, a further \$600k was paid over to TTRF.

Closing Balances:

Operating Current Account	\$ 19,396.20
Money Market Account	\$ 34,758.91
Government Allocation	\$148,741.00
TOTAL	\$202,896.11

Expectations for 2007

1. CCSJ will make a final payment to TTRF representing the funds raised for the APRC.
2. CCSJ will continue to hold the Government Allocation until the way is properly opened to pass these funds on to the Trinidad and Tobago Reintegration Foundation (TTRF).
3. CCSJ will be submitting its Stewardship Financial Report to the Vicar for Administration.
4. CCSJ will continue to support TTRF in any fundraising activities towards the establishment of the APRC.

In closing, I wish to thank our Episcopal Vicar for his leadership of the CCSJ, and the other members of the CCSJ for their support and dedication during this last year.

I thank you.

Mario Young, Treasurer CCSJ

07-03-09.

C. REPORTS: STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Children and Youth at Risk

The Children and Youth at Risk standing committee of the CCSJ was established in January 2004 in response to the need for collaboration among the providers of residential childcare services within the Archdiocese, in addressing various service-gaps within the system.

For 2006 the standing committee adopted the theme “**Promoting Better Adult Outcomes in Children and Youth at Risk – Drawing on Strengths, Confronting Challenges**” for both the workshop held back in February and its one-day seminar held in May. Caregivers were well represented at both events, (twenty two participants at the workshop and fifty four at the seminar), their concerns and recommendations providing the rudiments of a mandate for the committee:

- A psychological assessment should be conducted on each child admitted to care
- Programmes need to be put in place to address the developmental issues of children and young people in care/institutions
- Family intervention services and parenting programmes are needed
- Caregivers need support/care themselves, as well as training
- For children and youth at risk, interventions need to be community based
- There is a need for homes providing specialist care such as therapeutic care environments for children/young people with mental health issues, child perpetrators of sexual abuse
- There is a need for transition homes/semi-independent living facilities.

Indeed, in order to effectively promote favourable adult outcomes for at-risk children and youth, service providers and other stakeholders must address these issues, the question remaining – what can the Commission/Standing Committee do to enable this?

The second part of the standing committee’s 2006 theme suggests the way ahead: ‘drawing on strengths, confronting challenges’. Within the Archdiocese what resources are there that can be directed towards addressing these service-gaps? The attention of the standing commission must now be directed towards engaging leaders and ‘movers’ in considering this question.

2. Communications

In keeping with its major role, the Committee coordinated and facilitated the printing and publicity needs of the Commission during the course of the year.

The Committee also assisted in the coordination and production of the “Ask Why” programme aired monthly on Trinity Television Channel 10. The following programmes were aired during the period under review:

Ask Why Programmes for 2006

- January: Pope Benedict XVI’s Peace Message
- March: Parish Link
- May: Social Justice Commission and Social Justice
- June: Arguments & Concerns Over the Smelter Issue
- August: The Aluminium Smelters Issue: Unanswered Questions
- September: Food Prices: What can we do about it?
- October: Working Together Out of Poverty
- November: The Fundamental Principles of Good Governance

3. Education

The Mission of the Sub Committee for Social Justice Education is “to promote the education of Catholics in the Social Teachings of the Church for the establishment of the Reign of God and the building of a Community of Justice, Peace and Love.”

During 2006 activities included the following:

Workshop - a workshop, *A Basic Introduction to Social Justice*, was organized for catechists in the Eastern Vicariate. This was attended by 40 catechists and was very well received. The participants were enthusiastic and were eager to continue their education in SJ.

Social Justice ‘Quote of the Week’ - We continue to offer bite-sized teachings from our Social Tradition through the inclusion of a weekly quotation in the Catholic News. Quotes have appeared weekly for the past three years.

During the past year excerpts were taken from the AEC Bishops’ Pastoral Letter *‘Caring for the Earth’*. The current quotations are taken from Pope Benedict XVI’s Peace Message for 2007.

Catholic News articles: - The weekly Catholic News articles by Ms. Nadine Bushell explaining Catholic Social Teaching from the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* continues to be an effective educational tool.

Dissemination of Material at Parish Level: - The Education Committee has been aware of the need to have materials available for study at Parish Level and in schools and to this end we worked on two projects

Discussion Starters - This is a series of 9 leaflets on Social Justice and Human Rights issues. Topics included are

- Social Justice
- Crime from an Equality Perspective
- Health
- Consumer Rights
- Education
- Poverty
- Disability
- Pro Life
- Prejudice

'Take a Bite' – Themes of Catholic Social Teaching - A programme of five Study Tapes has been prepared and is at present being edited and packaged at Catholic Communications Studio (CCS).

These tapes/CDs cover the following five themes:

- Catholic Social Teaching - Fr. Jason Gordon
- The Dignity of the Human Person - Sr. Diane Jagdeo
- Solidarity - Fr. Malcolm Rodrigues
- Rights and Responsibilities - Ms. Leela Ramdeen
- Stewardship of the Environment -Dr. John Agard

These Tapes and Discussion Starters will be launched with a Workshop for Facilitators. It is intended that the material will be used by:

- Parishes
- Social Justice Committees
- Senior forms of Secondary School
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Catechetical Body
- Youth Executive
- Other Church Groups

Other Activities: As opportunity arose and on invitation, members presented Social Justice teachings to various groups, e.g. recently, a presentation on Social Justice and Catholic Social Teaching was made to the teachers and parents of St. Joseph Girls' RC. School.

Collaboration with the Youth Commission: Discussion continues on plans for the *Youth Forum on Social Justice*.

Challenge: Because of the current emphasis in the Archdiocese on Catechetics, Family Life and Catholic Education, these themes have become priorities for

many parishes and, as a result, time for social justice education has been somewhat limited this year.

4. Family Life and Communities

The Committee was persuaded to give priority to action pursuant to the clause “**To promote support services to families**”. Accordingly the committee initiated a FAMILY MENTORING AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMME, in collaboration with Couples for Christ (CFC). Training sessions were held for **SFC** teams to sensitize participants with reference to models of intervention for working with families who were identifiable as ‘at risk’ in parishes. The modus operandi was that field work would be done by CFC members while the Committee with its connected membership would facilitate and steer the process.

Field work was actually initiated in two parishes, namely, St. Augustine and Diego Martin. Review of the reports from the CFC teams suggested that integration of such initiatives into the Parish Link Programme was likely to be more effective with a procession of sustained support for identified ‘at risk’ families. The Chair has recommended that such integration be pursued; action is pending.

Meanwhile the Committee has initiated no further interventions.

In pursuance of the Mission Statement “TO PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY” the Chair has been monitoring progress on the preparation by the Ministry of Social Development of a **National Family Policy** in accordance with the announcement by the Prime Minister/Minister of Finance in his Budget Statement 2005 - 2006.

The Ministry appointed a Multi-disciplinary Committee, comprising Government officials and representatives of social partners to prepare a Draft Policy on the Family in Trinidad and Tobago. (Faith based organizations were represented by the IRO). The Chair has recently been advised that the Committee's Draft Report is still in preparation and is expected to be finalized by mid-year. No decision had been taken whether or not the Draft Report would be issued for public comment.

In the light of recent policy advocating by some groups of legitimizing same- sex marriages and permitting adoption by homosexual couples, it is incumbent on the committee to keep track of the Draft National Policy on the family if and when it comes to light!

There are distinct PRO-LIFE elements on the Mission Statement of the Committee namely:-

“To promote the preservation of life”

“To promote the Church’s teaching on Sex and Human Sexuality”.

In practice, the Committee collaborates with the other Church Bodies which are active in PRO-LIFE work, namely the EMMANUEL COMMUNITY and the ARCHDIOCESAN FAMILY LIFE COMMISSION. The Chair CCSJ and Chair of this Committee have been vigilant in opposing publicly the lobby of ASPIRE and its supporters to decriminalize abortion by changing the existing statutory provisions. In addition, an eye is being kept on the proposed amended National Gender Policy, if and when it emerges.

Re: MISSION STATEMENT

“To influence national social policy which impacts on Family and Community Life”.

Members have been actively engaged in collaborating with the CHAIR CCSJ in advocating and advancing the Commission’s position of the construction of two aluminium smelters in Trinidad and Tobago.

5. Poverty and Social Exclusion

The Standing Committee had what could be termed a 'trying' year. While this Committee has had a tradition of starts and stops since the inception of the Commission, the Committee was able to weather the storms and endure to the end of the year with a few stories of hope that will take us into the future.

The year began with the development of strategies to enable the efforts of the Commission in its work among the poor and marginalized. Its major intervention strategy was to work alongside the Link Programme in order to provide professional, logistical and institutional strengthening support to that programme.

The other strategy was to support the St. Vincent De Paul Society in its work, by providing institutional strengthening and capacity building support especially in the area of poverty reduction. Initiatives included:

- Visiting Conferences in the Central region to inform them of opportunities for funding projects for their charges
- Counselling with some members in parishes where the Link mounted intervention programmes. Such action was seen as necessary in order to facilitate better understanding and appreciation for the work of the SJC. Moreover, it was deemed necessary to stem what was perceived by some SVP members as territorial impingement.

Achievements:

- The sub-committee was able to propose and successfully have the Commission agree to an increase in the annual budget allocation for its work in 2007. The proposed sum was TT\$20,000.
- The sub-committee successfully lobbied a proposal for the allocation of TT\$16,000 to enable the Link Programme to continue its work among the parishes.
- The sub-committee was able to fund the transport cost of the Link's Vacation Camp at Rio Claro during the July - August period, in the sum of TT \$2,000.

Challenges:

The proposed national conference on poverty did not come off owing to a number of reasons, the chief of which was funding. The other major reason was the frequent absence of a quorum at the monthly meetings of the committee.

The planned forum and seminar to educate SVP members on social justice was postponed indefinitely owing to the unavailability of the Parish Hall at Curepe when needed. However, it is hoped that in 2007 this project would be made a reality.

6. Prayer

In the last year this Committee has faced some challenges and as a result will be changing its approach to organizing prayer activities on behalf of the commission. This year the Committee will:

1. Strengthen the prayer network of the Commission by asking more individuals and groups to pray for the work of the Commission.
2. With the permission of the Chair, set days of prayer for particular justice issues. The entire Church will be invited to join us in prayer on these days.

It is the hope of this Committee that these simple plans will help deepen the awareness of social justice issues in the mind and hearts of the faithful.

7. Restorative Justice and Post Prison Support

Walk Tall Programme – Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre (APRC)

1. Site Preparation & Construction Start-up

The site preparation work for the Anthony Pantin Re-integration Centre is complete. The recommendation by Mr. Michael Patty, Civil Engineer, to raise the land with 10,000 cubic meters of fill was done and construction works on site layout, foundation works, sewerage and drainage will begin on 19th March, 2007. This work is to facilitate the second phase described below.

There has also been a wonderful evolution of the project. The Board of Directors of the TTRF has approved the use of re-conditioned and refurbished 20ft and 40ft containers to be used for the buildings at the APRC. Previously, the APRCentre would have carried a price tag of TT\$8Million. Now the price tag is approximately TT\$4Million. The new approach will allow the Centre to be opened in June, 2007. The previous conventional approach of mortar, bricks and steel would have brought the completion date to December 2008.

The approach of using containers revolutionizes residential accommodation in this country. Currently, this approach has been used only for offices. It will be the first time these containers will be used for housing. We follow successfully what is being done in other parts of the world to provide low-cost, but user-friendly housing.

This low-cost and time-efficient approach lends support to our philosophy of having this project become a model for ex-inmate Re-integration Centres. It is both achievable and doable for small Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Community Based Organizations (CBO) and Faith Based Organizations (FBO). Put differently, other groups in prison ministry and restorative justice can replicate this, thus providing much needed ex-inmate accommodation.

Fr. d'Hereaux met with the Minister of Public Utilities seeking support for this project. Approval and Governmental commitment have been given for the running of electricity and pipe-born water to the land. The National Social Development Unit under the Directorship of Mr. Anselm de Couteau has been named as the unit of the Ministry responsible for delivering this commitment. This work is continuing; a contractor has been awarded for the running of the electricity. WASA is in the process of sending in its quotation to the NSDP for approval.

2. Outline Approval

Outline approval has been received from the Division of Town & Country Planning. The Drainage Division of the Ministry of Works has given approval to our comprehensive drainage plan. Drainage works are being supervised by the Project Consultant team and a contractor.

3. Project Management

A Project Consultant Team, has been developed. It comprises:

- Mr. Nigel Aqui – Project Manager
- Mr. Albert Pantin – Quantity Surveyor
- Mrs. Rudelyn Du Four Roberts – Architect
- Mr. Clifford Murray – Civil Engineer
- Mr. Paul Lee Lum – Technical Advisor

This team meets twice monthly with representatives of the Management Committee, namely, Fr. Matthew d'Hereaux and Sr. Mary Anthony. These representatives are expected to report to the CCSJ, TTRF Board of Directors as well as back to the Management Committee on the progress of the project. Contractors have been assessed for the project and necessary quotations have been tendered. The contract will be awarded to begin work by the 19th March, 2007.

4. On-going Financing

Ten energy-sector companies have been approached for additional funding. Negotiations have been on-going. These companies will add TT\$2Million to Republic Bank's donation of TT\$2Million in order to meet the total project cost. Details of project cost have been sent in to the companies for a final decision. Arising from the launch of the TTRFoundation, other companies are also giving the project serious consideration.

At the Board of Directors Meeting on 26th March, 2007 a financial report will be tabled. This report will hopefully feature the energy sector donation.

Three members of the Board of Directors will meet with Ministers Anthony Roberts and Fitzgerald Hinds to negotiate a government subvention for recurrent expenditure.

5. Launch of the Trinidad & Tobago Re-integration Foundation

On February 1st the Trinidad & Tobago Re-integration Foundation was launched at MovieTowne under the Patronage of Prof. George Maxwell Richards, the

President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Feature speaker was Mr. Kevin Wallen, Director of the SET (Students Expressing Truth) Programme. He conducts a successful prisoner rehabilitation programme i.e. SET in his native Jamaica. It is hoped that collaboration be followed up between the SET and WalkTALL programmes.

At the launch His Grace, Edward Gilbert, Archbishop of Port-of-Spain handed over to the President of the Republic the pennant of the Foundation symbolizing the service that the Church is prepared to offer the national community in the area of restorative justice.

6. Opening of the Anthony Pantin Re-integration Centre

It is envisioned that the Centre will open its doors on 9th June, 2007 with an official ceremony. To this end, work is being done assiduously for the Programme development component of the project. This consists of: Mentoring, Counselling, Apprenticeship & Job Placement, Family and Community Mediation and Skills /Literacy Training.

Beginning September 2006 a programme development team of 10 specialists/ professionals have been meeting monthly to develop a Manual for operationalising at the APCentre. Timelines have been put in place; interviews for staffing will begin in April, 2007. We have also developed a comprehensive communication plan awaiting Board of Director approval for rolling out. This will sensitize the public of the need for volunteerism and financial support of the work at the Centre.

8. Tobago

This branch of the Commission is dormant. Presently, some members have left. Efforts were made to get members. Some persons indicated that they were not interested in Social Justice.

9. Youth

Ms. Kimberly Smith resigned as a member of the Commission representing Youth, in order to pursue her studies. Unfortunately, a suitable replacement has not yet been found.

D. PROJECTS

1. Parish Link Programme - Introduction

It has been a busy and productive year for the Parish Link Teams of the CCSJ, for while sustaining some of our basic services started in Year 1, such as holding Legal Aid clinics, assisting the elderly in their need, bringing knowledge of public funding to the people, supporting the work of sister teams, writing prisoners on Death Row, speaking or having Booths for the Parish Link program at Covenant Days - Mt Lambert, St Finbar's, Morvant/Laventille, St. Augustine, Curepe - in this past year we have added a variety of projects in response to community requests ... anything from

- sourcing Bibles for Matelot's youth retreat – youth who could not afford to purchase Bibles
- doing retreats on solidarity for different groups
- starting a guitar club in Rio Claro in an attempt to keep youths off the street - we sourced 15 guitars and now the guitar club is going guns on a Saturday.

We have also done specific special-service interventions for communities such as a 3-day intervention in Matelot with 3 other NGOs and after a year of relative quiet on the front of new teams, we are now starting new Parish Link teams in the following areas:

- Toco/ Matelot
- Cumana
- San Juan
- Princes Town
- Morvant/Laventille
- St Finbar's

Existing teams will support new teams. Rio Claro will support Princes Town, St Joseph will support Morvant/Laventille, Curepe and St. Augustine will support San Juan.

Achievements:

The 3 most significant areas of growth/development in the Parish Link Teams since the last reporting period are:

1. The development of four major programs focused on youth
2. A strategic move into formalizing our teams as CBOs in order to access public funding
3. A strategic move into collaborative ministry in a variety of ways

The four (4) new youth-focused programs are:

1. **The Happy Child Program:** values-based self esteem programs of 3 days -3 weeks
2. **The Parenting Skills program:** for parents of participants in the youth programs
3. **The “NEVER DOUBT!” Program** - computer literacy at Cyril Ross
4. **“THE GOOD NEWS”** A video production and TV news program for youth at risk

“The Happy Child” program

In response to the Sean Luke tragedy last year, the Parish Link Team Leaders met and a decision was made to incorporate a new emphasis on working with youth in a combination of advocacy and community building. Two summer Camp programs were designed and run by our Curepe Team, by our Rio Claro team and a special all-village intervention was done in Matelot over a 3-day period.

Curepe: 50 children were treated to a 2-week camp full of the arts with the theme of “LOVE”. Professionals in dance, art, drama and craft worked with the children under the supervision of Mrs. Pearl Charles a parishioner of the Fatima Parish. Certain students with serious behavioral issues were targeted for follow up work with professionals.

Rio Claro: A 3-week values based program was held for 30 children from distressed home circumstances (poverty, cases of physical abuse, incest, homes with alcoholic parents, homes with drug involvement). These children were identified by the principals of the primary schools in Rio Claro. The project worked to establish 4 Core Values and a program motto which was

“ I always have choices, and my life is the result of my choices.”

The 4 values formed a backdrop for decisions the children would use as they were encouraged to THINK and make choices. These values were:

- Caring ... embodied by “**Tantie Love**” ... a storyteller
- Honesty ... a Chinese grocery man called “**Mr. Ah Doh Lie**”
- Respect ... by an old Rasta man called “**Ras’pect**”
- Responsibility ... by our folklore character “**Papa Bois**”

Solid gains were achieved in the mood and behavior of the participants with family members expressing surprise at the change in their children. These gains may be temporary, but they were a start ... to show that structure, attention, listening and coherent treatment can make a real difference in young lives. On

the last day one of the most difficult boys asked something that many had been saying in the last days “Miss, can we come back on Monday?”

Funding was a severe problem and this learning has lead us to another point in our development as a group ... we now have a concerted effort to understand and get involved in the area of public and corporate funding for our projects.

Matelot: In October 2006, we started having conversations about Synod and Social Justice with the parish council of the Toco parish and its various communities stretching from Matelot to Salybia. They invited us to come and work with them as they had had no Synod work of any kind and were eager to do something to get growth and spirituality moving in “the north coast”.

A program was designed for a one-day intervention that would be given to 3 groups of children consecutively.

Day 1) ... Standard 4, Standard 5 and Form 1

Day 2) ... Form 2 and Form 3 and some 4s

Day 3) ... Form 5 and the rest of the 4s

We worked in unison with **Creative Parenting for the New Era (CPNE)** – lead by Joan Bishop, Peace Love and Understanding in Schools (PLUS) lead by McKenzie -Cook and Families in Action.

The sessions focused on self esteem and a sense of self and helping participants determine a sense of their place in the world.

We got mostly Trini ex-patriates and a few non-trinis, to write emails to the children of the Matelot Community School, saying where they were writing from and asking them about Matelot, their village, their parents, fishing, plants and the sea. With the aid of a world map, we put the children in groups, handed each group a fistful of emails and had them

1. read a letter as a group
2. find the place on the world map
3. attach a star and a long bright ribbon to the city
4. repeat the cycle till all letters were accounted for

Parenting Skills Certification Program and First Parenting Skills Course

In the period October 2006 to January 2007, Certification in The Facilitation of Parenting Skills was acquired through a grant we received from the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust Fund. Two leaders in our group – M. Arneaud and A.

Beharrysingh, leader of the Tunapuna Link team, were trained and certified by CPNE under the guidance of Miss Joan Bishop and Associates. We studied for 130 contact hours in a group of 29 participants from NGOs and CBOs around the country.

This made possible the delivery of a parenting skills program in Rio Claro. This was part of the planning for the Happy Child program- a sustainability step to effectively bring change into the family – the home – and so into the child’s life. The course was well attended by 25- 30 participants.

The team of teachers who worked in “The Happy Child Program” also attended the parenting skills course and have now started to move it further into the community working in conjunction with the Catholic School Board for Rio Claro. It has been given to parents at the Santa Rita RC School and in the coming months it will be taken into Poole RC and St Theresa’s RC as a Parent Teachers Association offering.

There are plans to have four more Link team leaders/members certified in this Parenting Skills Facilitation course in the period 2007 - 2008

The “ NEVER DOUBT!” Program - a Computer Literacy program for the Cyril Ross Nursery

Another of our new ministries offered during this past reporting period is a project which we were only able to offer with the joint collaboration of 2 other groups: an Information Technology (IT) company in the banking industry and sixth form students of St Joseph’s Convent, St Joseph.

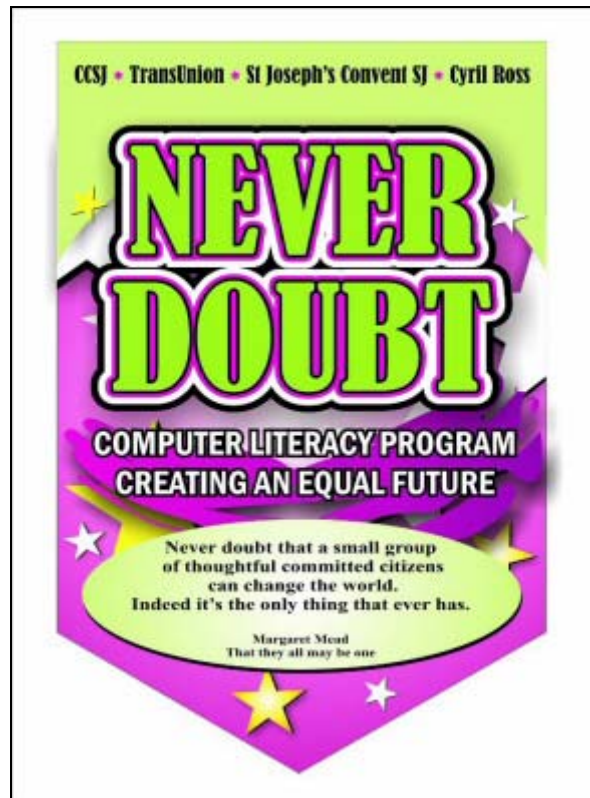
This project took close to a year to launch and started at the 2005 Christmas party that the CCSJ hosted at Cyril Ross. Seeing the many needs there and knowing that we would be starting a team close by in Tunapuna in January of 2006, we started to talk with the Cyril Ross team, dream and plan and work towards making computer assisted learning a reality for the children.

These children have severe learning problems due to not attending school for years, as well as the impact of their medications on the brain function. When Hyacinth Cross, Director of the center mentioned that the medications’ negative effect on the concentration span, the link came right away to computer assisted learning. Research clearly shows that one of the major benefits of computer learning is the expanding of attention span. So our focus became clear as we joined Hyacinth Cross in her dream of a computer lab for the children...

It took a long time to be realized but on December 1st, the World’s International AIDS day, we launched the “**NEVER DOUBT!**” program in the presence of the

Chairman of the National Aids Coordinating Committee, Dr Emery Brown, representatives of Government agencies and NGOs such as Pan American Health Organization, The Regional Micro Project Fund of the European Union and well wishers of the institution. Several of these groups had helped with the infrastructure for the Computer lab with donations of paint, wiring, air condition, some of the computers and furniture.

But that day –December 1st, everything came together as 25 children, 17 volunteers and our Tunapuna Link team started to work together to assure those children had an equal chance at participation in life’s abundance, with the help of computers and technology today. Here is our banner which was kindly created and donated by Graphic Impact of El Socorro.



Software was sourced in the USA and provided by the Link Teams to the center – innovative and fun reading programs, mathematics software, Disney products and educational games highly recommended by Educational software reviewers. Classes are given Saturdays from 10 – 12 and 1 -2 pm, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 5 - 6 pm. One volunteer sees about 2 students so there is plenty of guidance, close interaction and mentoring. Relationships have grown so beautifully that several volunteers now stay back and help the children with their homework, outside of Program time.

We have seen the need to source specialized formal assistance in reading remediation and the evaluation/testing of the children's reading skills. 2 members are now enrolled for training certification in the ALTA reading program and talks are under way with UWI Special Education lecturers re assessment of the children's reading skills with follow up recommendations for remediation.

THE GOOD NEWS TV program for youth at risk

This is a major initiative involving 6 Parish Link sites - Curepe, Tunapuna, St Joseph, Rio Claro, St Augustine and Toco /Matelot/Cumana.

Our project will introduce youth at risk to communications technology.

We will train them in Video production towards producing a TV News segment every week to be aired on national television in a prime time slot - TV by youth for youth and with a positive spin and a focus on values – hence the name.

We are working on building self esteem, opening up new worlds/careers to them and surrounding them with new role models who are professionals in a well known industry.

Catholic Communication Studios is partnering with us in this project and we are seeking corporate sponsors from 3 sectors at 3 sites. Energy/Gas, Banking/Financial and Food/Commodity.

First/exploratory experiences showed that children in rural areas showed high levels of anger, aggression and discontent. We found them bored and with few distractions of a healthy kind. We saw this in the Happy Child Program and saw some behaviour change in the 3 weeks with them.

Now, our next development project - a third tier in our unfolding series for youth - is about giving the kids exposure to today's communications technologies while surrounding them with

1. the values of our group (caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and continuous learning/sharing)
2. role models who could serve as a fixed point of reference in their lives
3. the discipline of a professional environment

Our project aims to use that powerful attraction of communications technology to give these youth experiences of an exciting, creative, yet structured and disciplined learning experience that will provide role models, practical training, and absorb their interest in such a way that new habits will have a chance to be formed, values lived.

The project will frequently bring these youth into contact with professionals in the field, have field trips into the professional locations supporting their learning, in other words, train them in technical skills and bring them into a new mindset and an entirely new space in life.

We see a 3-year cycle to this project

PHASE I: months 1 – 2/3

We propose to teach **15** youth per location – ages 11 to 25 in rare cases we may extend it up to the United Nations definition of youth - 35) to the discipline of video production at the following locations:

- Rio Claro/ Mayaro
- Toco / Matelot / Cumana
- Tunapuna/Curepe

Additional sites will come on stream in Years 2 and 3 - Tobago, Morvant/ Laventille, Point Fortin and possibly one in Central as well.

PHASE II : months 3/4 - 10

We propose next to produce a weekly TV News segment called “ ***The Good News - the word from youth around the country***” ... This will increase their involvement, motivation and pride as well as raise self esteem which is a crucial part of behaviour change in children/youth. It will also be :

- A practical application for the skills they are learning
- An antidote to all the bad and stressful news pouring out nightly
- A direct line to hope and upward mobility for young hearts and minds

Conclusion:

It has been a grace-filled year with many real connections of justice for the communities we serve. We continue to be strong in the observance of the 4 principles for which we work:

- Solidarity
- Education
- Community building
- Advocacy

In the face of diminished possibilities for expansion this past year, due to the Synod mandate for all parishes to focus on Catechetics, Family Life and Catholic Education, we have moved deeper and broader right where we stood. Two of

our teams have dwindled through leadership problems and will need attention in 2007. Members still attend major meetings when the leadership is called together but we need to send in help and will in the near future. Overall, we have worked with strategy which might be summed up as having 5 parts:

Strategic Approach - where we are headed and how we'll accomplish it

1. **To apply institutional strengthening:** *working in solidarity with other teams needs* supporting each other's work.
2. **To extend reach:** Searching for options and viable/new ways of reaching Catholics and indeed all people in the communities we serve, and going beyond to communities we do not as yet serve
3. **To Source Funding – programs need funding and so we are making an approach to the world of funding.** Our first move is to certify our teams as CBOs in order to access public funding. Rio Claro was registered in July 2006. Two more teams are currently in process to become Community Based Organizations
4. **To engage in Collaborative Ministry** - this involves everything from working with our community Village Council, setting up Partnering Programs with other entities such as PTAs, working with other groups to offer service that we could not offer if alone
5. **Creating a culture of volunteerism in young people**

The Parish Link teams currently in operation are:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Curepe	Charlene Costello
St Augustine	Jemma Wong
St Joseph	Marian Graham
Tunapuna	Anthony Beharrysingh
Rio Claro	Colleen Ramdhan
Woodbrook	Nigel Cassimire
Mucurapo	Derry Lee Loo

Teams not currently functional due to leadership issues but they attend all major meetings

<u>Location</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Chaguanas	Herschel Vitalis
Maracas Valley	Rawle Butcher

Teams due to start in 2007 (some already have had presentations at Masses and one meeting)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Toco/Matelot/Cumana	Desi McDonald
San Juan	Roslyn John
Princes Town	
Morvant/ Lavantille	
St Finbar's	Dawn Seepersad

We thank you the Commission for your support this past year and look forward to serving in 2007.

Submitted by Ms. Maureen Arneaud, National Coordinator

Parish Link Teams – CCSJ

2. Community Intervention Transforming Youths (C.I.T.Y) and Pride in Gonzales

Overview

Launched in September 2003 C.I.T.Y. initiative is a Partnership of the Catholic Commission for Social Justice and the St. Martin de Porres Parish in Gonzales.

C.I.T.Y.'s History

In 2003, Gonzales was a community in crisis, besieged with violence and undisciplined youth. There had been both willful neglect of the physical infrastructure of the community and a collapse of the physical structure together with the absence of leadership in which gangs entered and flourished. The Catholic Church of St. Martin de Porres was located right in the heart of the densely populated Gonzales Community.

The Church's response to address the crime, violence and social decay in the area was to start an intervention strategy beginning a conversation with the leaders of the Gonzales community and then the entire village community. The dialogue focused on youth formation programs as a response to the community crisis. It was an attempt to involve the whole village community in a strategy to face and reduce the high crime that was being experienced in the area.

C.I.T.Y.'s Vision

The genesis of the C.I.T.Y. initiative is a Participatory Governance Program using the tools of urban planning and capacity building programs to foster a revitalized community where justice and peace can flourish.

Capacity building is the process by which individuals, organizations, institutions and societies develops abilities (individually and collectively) to perform functions, solve problems and set and achieve objectives.

The objective of the Pride in Gonzales initiative is to build capacity as it relates to the overall quality of life in the communities. Pride in Gonzales offers resources to residents of local communities to enable individuals to take an active role in their communities and contribute to the overall wellbeing of these communities. They also provide the basis and infrastructure for forming social networks that support strong communities and facilitate building relationships among people, adding value to community life.

The long term goals are to empower people, build capacity of existing leaders and have them mentor the next leaders, increase community participation, foster social cohesion, enhance cultural identity and strengthen institutional development. If community members have a sense of ownership in the decision making process and feel that resources have been distributed in an equitable and fair manner, the likelihood of success is vastly improved.

The offerings of the C.I.T.Y Programme can be categorized in the following areas:

1. Sports	2. Youth
3. Education	4. Arts
5. Communication	6. Capacity Building
7. Computer and Information Technology	8. Subsistence
9. Gang Intervention	10. Crime Prevention
11. Infrastructure Projects	12. Crisis Intervention

Community Revitalization

This has emerged as a deeper foundation to adolescent formation programmes. A revitalized community is the best tool of youth formation. The plan focused on eight key areas of concern that have been identified: crime, unemployment,

disposal of garbage, rebuilding community facilities, roads and infrastructure, street lights, inadequate social activities and water.

Sports

This started in 2004 with a revival of football competition. This was so successful that it led to the formation of a football club and the launching of the Gonzales Sports and Cultural Club to provide formal sports programs for the community. These significant developments have led to UNICEF's adoption of Gonzales as a place to experiment with sport for development. In addition, Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago has been working in partnership at a Governmental level.

Youth

- a. An adolescent homework clinic started in September 2004 allows students to do their homework in a controlled supervised environment. A SEA (Secondary Entrance Assessment) preparation class was added to assist children in Standards 4 and 5.
- b. Pre-teens of Gonzales are under the supervision of special education teachers trained in remedial intervention at the Montessori Method of Education.
- c. An after school program for secondary school children is also conducted. It is geared towards making children from the inner city area better integrated adolescents with clearer goals for education, career and life.
- d. A literacy programme encompassing functional and computer literacy has started in 2006 geared towards the targeted youth of the Gang Intervention Programme.

Arts

A photography club was initiated in conjunction with TallMan Foundation. The aim is for the establishment of a school for the Visual and Performing Arts of Gonzales. New workshops in Video Production and Still Photography are carded to start in May 2007 and workshops on dance and music are to come on stream. All of which are geared to tap into the natural talent of the youths in the community.

Communication

In 2005 the community launched its newsletter: The Gonzales Gazette. The newsletter endeavors to keep the people of Gonzales well informed of all activities taking place in their community particularly with respect to Pride in Gonzales. Plans are on stream to increase distribution and frequency.

Capacity Building

Leadership is a critical element to create and maintain active citizen involvement and enhance the quality of life in the community. A full time Social Worker builds the capacity of the existing leader of associations and groups of all kinds in the community by working closely with them.

A programme of intervention and mediation continues to be a great significance especially in regards to socializing initiatives by the Pride in Gonzales initiative. Building on the core programme of Gang Intervention put into effect by former Parish Priest, Fr. Jason Gordon, a mediation course was started in January 2007 geared towards building the capacity of the leaders of community who will be trained to facilitate the resolution of community issues and disputes.

Computer and Information Technology

Started in 2004 and continues to provide an opportunity not only for the youth of the community but for the adults to be computer literate. Computer Literacy classes are offered as the need arises. A new programme funded by Microsoft called the 'Workplace of Tomorrow' is to start shortly. The programme seeks to train the people in technology and finding out-sourced work, help them set up cottage industries. The trainees will receive a computer and internet access so that business can be conducted at home.

Subsistence

This entails building economic capacity of the community by helping residents to improve their skills to make them more marketable. Our social worker oversees this initiative and is instrumental in implementing programs to develop and train them so that they can obtain jobs.

Gang Intervention

The core program put into effect by former Parish Priest, Fr. Jason Gordon has led to tremendous positive development as regards to this initiative amongst the five gangs. Mentoring, monitoring and counseling and other powerful interventions have led to tremendous changes required to restore peace. In a real sense, building of peace in East Port-of-Spain, block by block is happening truly crystallizing what the kingdom is most deeply about.

Crime Prevention

We continue to work closely with the Ministry of National Security: A mobile unit was located in the community and is due to be placed on a more permanent basis. New strategies of community policing - a joint initiative between residents

and community are being implemented. In 2006 the Motorola award for Community Policing was awarded to the partners in this project.

Infrastructure Projects

Since May 2003, starting with an environmental project to clean up and working closely with the City Corporation, a number of community issues/projects has been initiated. Construction of the Community Centre has started and is due to be completed by September 2007.

Other ongoing and future projects include standpipe installation, establishment of a Centre for Performing Arts and upgrading of the football field.

In October 2006, a Community Project Implementer joined the team and is working specifically on all the physical building projects.

Crisis Intervention

Our Social Worker intervenes in terms of assessment of any form of crisis situation that develops particularly in families. She attends to walk-in or referred clients from the community, assesses the situation and then refers to the relevant government or agency.

C.I.T.Y. in pursuit of its core business of revitalizing troubled communities continues to be an integral part of the transformation process. It is envisioned that CITY can become a model that can engineer the socio-economic transformation in troubled communities.

New Developments

Republic Bank Limited has agreed to fund CITY Centre, the new administrative home of CITY/Pride in Gonzales. The team of CITY in January 2007 has been strengthened by the additional financial and administrative expertise and the Board has been formalized.

Reverend Father Jason Gordon has played a tremendous visionary role in the formation and development of CITY. His new assignment in the Church as Vicar for Administration has opened the door for the powerful, committed, strong community oriented spiritual leadership of Reverend Father Clyde Harvey who has begun to make a significant impact on the community/organization.

The Prime Minister in the Budget Speech 2007 hailed the initiative as the leading community initiative in the country, pledging the support for any community using this approach or method to buy peace and build the community.

In the final analysis CITY continues to be committed to its original ideals and shines forth as a beacon to all our parish/communities.

E. OTHER CCSJ ACTIVITIES

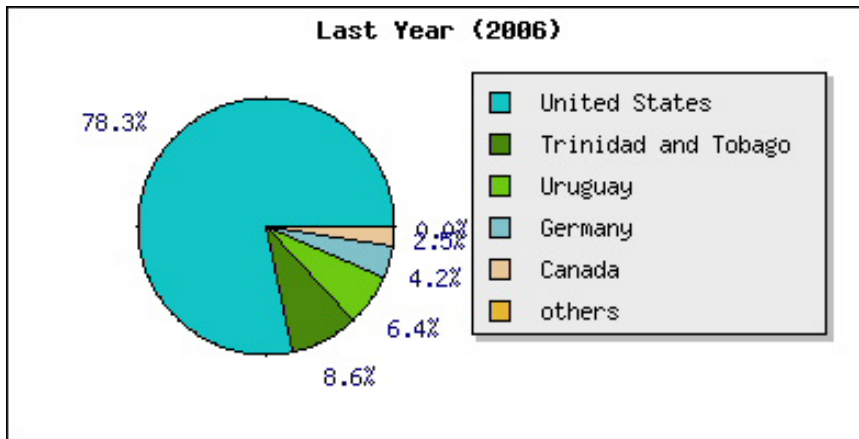
1. CCSJ Website (www.rcsocialjusticett.org)

Submitted to Chair of the Catholic Commission for Social Justice, Fr. Michael Moses by Raymond Syms

Website Activity Summary for AGM Report 2006

Our website was updated weekly with the Social Justice quotes and the series 'Compendium on the Church's Social Teaching', both of which appear in the *Catholic News*. In all, 48 quotes and 51 Compendium articles were added and then archived. The main addition to the site however was a section dealing with the controversial Aluminium Smelter issue. That section is updated as relevant information is received.

Statistically, the website attracted a total of 8,028 visitors last year, averaging 23 visitors per day. Of this total, 7,372 visitors were new to the site. Visitors came from around the world, but mainly from the United States (3,582), Trinidad & Tobago (393), Uruguay (292), Germany (192) and Canada (114).



The CCSJ website needs to be redesigned and restructured as it is now four years old and has not received any form of revamping during this period. Some

of its content is outdated and needs to be removed. Plans have been made to integrate the site into the Archdiocesan website (www.rcpos.org) to cut overall maintenance costs, make its content more manageable and eliminate a perception that the CCSJ is separate and apart from the Archdiocese.

2. The Chair, CCSJ members attended and participated in a number of local meetings, Seminars, Conferences and Forums related to Social Justice issues (from HIV/AIDS Conferences, Aluminium Smelter Symposiums to Draft Constitution Forums etc).

F. APPENDICES

1.	The Cultivation of Moral and Social Virtues are the Foundation for the Building of a Just Society - Researched and Edited by Fr. Michael Moses
2.	Crime/Violence vs. Values/Virtues by Archbishop Edward Gilbert
3.	Unanswered Smelter Questions by Professor John Spence
4.	Catholic News Article Sunday 07/01/07 -Thanks for Supporting Anti-Smelter Struggle by Fr. Wilfred John, Vice-chairperson, Cedros Peninsula United
5.	Guardian Newspaper Article Wednesday 14/03/07 - Catholic Church Tackles Crime
6.	Social Justice - Resolutions of Synod 2003, Discussion and recommendations by Synod 2005 and Resolutions Retained from Synod 2003, New and Amended resolutions passed at Synod 2005