



**CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
*Theme: Responding to the Lord's call to DO Justice*



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**WINNERS OF CCSJ'S 2012 "Respect for Life" ESSAY COMPETITION -**  
**Gionieva Fraser, St. Joseph's Convent and Lysandra Campbell, St. Charles**  
**High School**

**Judges: Shirley Tappin, Sr Roberta O'Flaherty and Beverly Gomes-Nunez**

Wednesday 24 July 2013  
5.30 – 7.00 p.m.  
Archbishop's House  
27 Maraval Road  
PORT OF SPAIN

**"...if you want peace work for justice".**

## CCSJ'S 10th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For the period: 1 JANUARY 2012 – 31 DECEMBER 2012

**Theme: *Responding to the Lord's call to DO Justice***

Date: Wednesday 17 July 2013 Time: 5:30 p.m.

Venue: Archbishop's House, 27 Maraval Road, Port of Spain

### **CCSJ's 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:**

5:30 p.m. Opening prayer, welcome and apologies for absence: Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ.

5:40 p.m. Minutes of CCSJ's AGM for period 2011 held on Wed 11 July 2012 & Matters arising from Minutes.

5:50 p.m. Presentation of Annual Report on the CCSJ's work in 2012: Leela Ramdeen.

6:10 p.m. Adoption of Annual Report and Questions/comments.

6:15 p.m. Treasurer's Report for 2012 & Presentation of Audited Accounts 2011

6:25 p.m. Adoption of Accounts for 2012 and Audited Accounts for 2011 and Questions/comments.

6:30 p.m. Appointment of Auditors

6:35 p.m. Election of Officers/Management Committee – See By Laws: 7.1 (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary).

6:40 p.m. Closing Prayer and refreshments

# CCSJ's 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 17 July 2013 (covering period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2012)

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## **1. MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF POS**

We are the people of God in Trinidad and Tobago, building the Civilization of Love - reconciliation with God, neighbour, creation and self, through:

- The New Evangelization,
- Revitalizing Catholic Culture and Identity, and
- Regenerating the Moral and Spiritual Values of our Society.

### **CCSJ'S VISION**

We envision a transformed national/world community where Justice, Peace and Love prevail, as divinely ordained by God, and which:

- ensures human rights, duties and human dignity
- celebrates diversity and promotes equality
- promotes the common good, respect for human life and ecology justice.

### **MISSION**

To be a fearless united voice challenging injustice, awakening social consciousness and fostering integral development. We strive to do this through:

- Social Justice Education and Advocacy
- Promoting people-centred development, and
- Working for the transformation of inequitable structures and systems.

### **CORE VALUES**

- We recognise our duties and obligations to the wider community.
- “To bring good news to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind, and to free the downtrodden” (Luke 14).
- Always respecting the dignity of the human person.
- We value the process of Reflection, Research and Action.

## 2. INTRODUCTION BY CHAIR

**Introduction:** CCSJ is pleased to present its annual report for 2012. Membership of the Commission during 2012 was as follows:

Leela Ramdeen, Episcopal Delegate/Chair of CCSJ

Clive Belgrave, Vice Chair

Nadine Bushell, Secretary

Kenneth Cipriani, Treasurer (resigned on 28 June 2012)

Annette McKenzie, Treasurer (appointed on 28 June 2012)

Annette des Iles, Member

Mike James, Member (resigned Dec. 2012)

Sr Roberta O'Flaherty, Member

Eldon Warner, Member

Maria Diaz-James, Researcher (resigned Dec. 2012)

Christine Walcott, Parish Link Coordinator (resigned Nov. 2012)

Richard Smith, Vicariate Link Coordinator who coordinates the Social Justice aspect of the job descriptions of the Vicariate Link Coordinators (VLCs), including his own work. The other VLCs during 2012 were: Deacon Mike Smith, Deacon Paul Bousignac, and Sr Gail Jagroop - who resigned on 31 October 2012.

Volunteer: Dr Kenwyn Nicholls who runs CCSJ's Diabetes: Prevention and Management Project.

CCSJ records its thanks to Lorna Chee-Wah and Theresa Dukhie, CCSJ's Administrative Assistants who, through a job-share, provide tremendous support to the Commission. We also remember in prayer, and ask readers to pray for Mrs Marge Newallo, CCSJ's former Administrative Assistant who suffered a stroke. Marge has made enormous progress. We pray that by God's grace she will recover fully.

I would like to thank all members of CCSJ most sincerely for their commitment to the social imperatives of the Gospel. CCSJ wishes to thank most sincerely the following individuals who resigned from the Commission during 2012: Ken Cipriani, our dedicated Treasurer whose excellent accounting procedures supported our efforts to be accountable stewards of the monies allocated to us ; Deacon Mike James for sharing so willingly the wealth of knowledge that he possesses; his dear wife, Maria, who volunteered to work as CCSJ's Researcher for a period of time and who worked tirelessly with Prof Surindra Arjoon to undertake empirical research. The report produced - on Morals and Values, will assist the Commission as we seek to implement the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pastoral Priority; and Christine Walcott, CCSJ's

Parish Link Coordinator who worked diligently to promote the goals of the Commission. They have touched the lives of many while working with CCSJ and they will be remembered for their valuable contribution to our work. We welcome Annette McKenzie who has accepted the role as Treasurer of CCSJ. Like Ken, she is a qualified Accountant and her services will assist the Commission in ensuring accountability.

CCSJ thanks also those persons and organizations that have contributed to the Commission's work; to Archbishop Joseph Harris for his leadership and guidance to all of us in the Archdiocese; and to Msgr Robert Llanos, Vicar General, for responding positively to CCSJ's needs in a timely manner during 2012.

Since this report is being written in July 2013, CCSJ would like to congratulate Msgr Llanos on his appointment by Pope Francis I as Auxiliary Bishop in our Archdiocese to assist His Grace in providing Episcopal oversight of the 19 departments and 62 parishes in the Archdiocese. Msgr Llanos' Ordination is likely to take place mid-September 2013.

CCSJ's Chair welcomed the opportunity to attend a Retreat organised by His Grace shortly after he began his Ministry as our Shepherd/Archbishop.



(Photo by Raymond Syms, Camsel)

Archbishop Joseph Harris is greeted by Pope Benedict XVI after receiving the pallium at St Peter's Basilica, Rome, on June 29, 2012 – the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul (courtesy Catholic News). Archbishop Harris was ordained as Coadjutor Archbishop at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, TT, on September 14, 2011 and was installed as the tenth Archbishop of Port of Spain, during a ceremony at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, December 8, 2011.

The Retreat, which was held at Icacos from 27 - 29 January 2012 for members of the Synod Implementation Team (SIT), involved a prayerful reflection on practical ways in which SIT could achieve the Archdiocese's Mission. The purpose and objective of SIT, which was established after the 3<sup>rd</sup> sitting of Synod, were identified originally as: 'to oversee, facilitate and evaluate the process of

implementation of the Resolutions of the Third Sitting of the Archdiocesan Synod. As with the Synod process itself, SIT functions under the authority and in union with the Archbishop.”

Key information from the Retreat with His Grace is recorded in SIT’s Minutes. Certain aspects were disseminated in Catholic News by CAMSEL. Archbishop Harris has outlined practical action that he wishes to nurture among the Faithful in the Archdiocese as a way of building our faith e.g. Do something good for Jesus every day; Read the Bible; Know your Faith, Understand and act upon the Corporal Works of Mercy, Learn how to pray, Understand the Eucharist.

Four DVDs on the Eucharist have been circulated to Catholic primary and secondary schools to be used as part of their efforts to deepen the spirituality of their students and staff. Members of the Clergy were urged to allow 5 minutes of silence after Communion for reflection by the Faithful.

It is to be noted that CCSJ members met for their annual retreat on Monday 12 March. The theme chosen was: *In the Footsteps of Jesus: Sent to Serve and Do Justice*. Members were joined by 2 of the Vicariate Link Coordinators, Richard Smith and Deacon Mike James. Msgr Robert Llanos, Vicar General, addressed the gathering on the theme and his contribution to the day was spiritually uplifting. Thanks to Sr Christine for organising the prayer session and to Gregory Wong Fo Sue who led the team in music and praise. Once again we thank Vanessa Sabga and her family for allowing us to use her home as the venue for our retreat. Their generosity is much appreciated.

It is important to locate this AGM report within the wider context of key events that took place in TT and in the Church during 2012. In 2012 Trinidad and Tobago (TT) observed 50 years of Independence. TT achieved Independence on August 31st, 1962. The Homily delivered by Archbishop Joseph Harris at the midnight Mass for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence on Friday August 31, 2012 at the Pro-Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, San Fernando is included in **APPENDIX I.**

The Catholic Church in Trinidad and Tobago celebrated the 50th anniversary of the nation at the Ato Boldon Stadium in Couva on August 19.



Some of the Faithful at Ato Boldon Stadium, Couva  
(Photo by Raymond Syms, Camsel)

CCSJ congratulates Archbishop Harris on being awarded the Chaconia Medal Gold on 31 August for long and meritorious service to TT in the sphere of religion.

Catholic News published a special supplement (2 September) to mark the occasion of TT's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence. CCSJ's Chair submitted an article entitled: *The Church's contribution to building a just society*. It is published in this supplement (see CCSJ's website). The entire supplement can be accessed on: <http://www.catholicnews-tt.net/joomla/othersupp/157-50th-anniversary-of-independence>.

The Year 2012 will be remembered for a number of other key initiatives. On 16 October the Archdiocese launched "Go Teach", a compilation of some of the writings of Archbishop Emeritus Edward Gilbert. CCSJ's Chair attended the launch and purchased a copy of the book to form part of the Commission's resource base. CCSJ urges readers of this AGM Report to read the book.

A number of other key events took place in the Catholic Church during 2012 e.g. The Year of Faith began on October 11, 2012 and will conclude on November 24, 2013. Pope Benedict XVI stated in his document *Porta Fidei* (The Door of Faith), that The Year of Faith is a "summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Saviour of the world" (*Porta Fidei* 6).

October 11, 2012 was also the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) and the twentieth anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The 25th Synod of Bishops in October 2012 was dedicated to "The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith."



CCSJ accepts the challenge of bringing people to the Faith and continues to play a role in assisting the faithful in deepening their knowledge of the faith. The Commission notes the message of the Bishops in their final statement , approved on 24 October 2012, that : “The New Evangelization is not a question of finding new strategies as if the Gospel was to be spread like a market product, but rediscovering the ways in which individuals come close to Jesus.”

The Commission continues to meet on the last Wednesday of each month and to meet in retreat once a year. CCSJ members are members of the Body of Christ. We recall the analogy of the **body** in Paul’s first letter to the Church at Corinth (1Corinthians 12:27): “Now you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it.”

Our Catechism tells us that Christ is the head of this body. “The Church is the Body of Christ... In the unity of this Body, there is a diversity of members and functions. All members are linked to one another, especially to those who are suffering, to the poor and persecuted (CCC 805, 806).

Each member of the Commission brings different gifts to the table and places them at the service of our Church and the wider community to build the common good. Members work with others to create conditions that will enable all God’s children in TT and in the world to realize their potential. Our aim is to promote integral human development.

In a world rampant with individualism, moral relativism and selfishness, we thank God for the many persons in our Archdiocese who serve selflessly to achieve our goals. Those of us who serve on CCSJ recognise that our baptism calls us to love God, to love our neighbour and all of His Creation, and to demonstrate this love by reaching out to the “least” of those among us (Matthew 25:40). We are a people of hope. We know that we can be agents of change; we can transform our society to reflect Gospel values.

Our mandate comes from our scriptures e.g. Luke 4:18-19: “The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for his has anointed me, He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour.”

We know that to “hunger and thirst for justice” (Matthew 5:6), we must do more than e.g. feed the poor. The poor need more than handouts. Working for justice involves changing systems, structures, institutions and public policies that are at

the root cause of injustices such as poverty and social exclusion. This requires effective advocacy work – underpinned by prayer.

Inter alia, we must ask: “Why are the poor poor?” We must strive to dismantle unjust structures and promote systemic change, equity and equality. We must walk with the 2 feet of Christian service – works of mercy, and works of social action.

In promoting social justice the work of CCSJ members is informed by scriptures and the social doctrine of our Church – including the teachings of the Magisterium. In order to SEE, JUDGE and ACT from a Catholic perspective, members understand that we ourselves must be rooted in our faith and that we must continually strive to strengthen our relationship with God. This will help us to develop a spirituality of justice and peace in our nation.

The Bible and the Compendium on the Social Doctrine of the Church are constant companions of members of CCSJ on our journey of faith and in our efforts to advance the mission of our Church. Recognising that we journey with people of various faiths in TT and some of no religious persuasion, we seek to work in collaboration with all people of goodwill.

During 2012, try as we may, it was not possible to establish effective links in as many parishes as we would have wished. With only one Parish Link Coordinator, and only partial support from the Vicariate Link Coordinators whose remit is wide and whose numbers were depleted during 2012, it was not possible to develop sustainable, long-term projects in parishes. The US Bishops rightly stated in their document: *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*:

“The parish is where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth. Parishes are the home of the Christian community; they are the heart of our Church. Parishes are the place where God's people meet Jesus in word and sacrament and come in touch with the source of the Church's life...

“In these challenging days, we believe that the Catholic community needs to be more than ever a source of clear moral vision and effective action. We are called to be the ‘salt of the earth’ and ‘light of the world’ in the words of the Scriptures (cf. Mt 5:13-16). This task belongs to every believer and every parish. It cannot be assigned to a few or simply delegated to diocesan or national structures. The pursuit of justice and peace is an essential part of what makes a parish

Catholic...our faith is profoundly social. We cannot be called truly ‘Catholic’ unless we hear and heed the Church's call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace.”

CCSJ calls on all Catholics to be servant leaders. Let us put our time, talent and treasure at the disposal of our fellow brothers and sisters so that together we will truly build God’s Kingdom of justice, peace, truth, love, freedom and forgiveness. As Mother Teresa said:

“What you can do, I can’t do, and what I can do, you can’t do, but together we can do something beautiful for God.”

We thank God for the privilege of working in His Vineyard. It was Golf Green who said that: “Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision; the ability to direct accomplishment toward organisational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”

We will achieve our goals if we continue to work as a team and to harness the talents and resources of our nation/world to build the common good.

Vatican II stressed the need for the Catholic Church to stand in solidarity with the whole human family. Solidarity is a key social justice principle.

“We are one human family. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be. Pope John Paul II insists, ‘We are all really responsible for all.’ Loving our neighbour has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that ‘if you want peace, work for justice.’ The Gospel calls us to be ‘peacemakers.’ Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we be ‘sentinels of peace’ in a world wounded by violence and conflict” (US Bishops : *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility* and in *Themes of Catholic Social Teaching*).

The vocation common to all Catholics is to be holy. Jesus calls us to be “perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48). CCSJ’s plea to the faithful is to join forces with us. Together we can sanctify our homes, our workplaces, our communities, and our nation. Let us stand as sentinels of justice and peace, remembering that we can do nothing on our own – only through God’s grace. As Pope Francis told those gathered in St Peter’s Square on Easter Monday (1 April 2013): “Without grace we can do nothing - without grace we can do nothing! And

with the grace of Baptism and Holy Communion we can become an instrument of God's mercy - that beautiful mercy of God.”

I end this Introduction with a reflection from one of the Vatican II documents, *Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, n.27:

“The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the men and women of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way are the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ.”

We cannot remain as silent bystanders and observe the daily assaults on human life and on our environment. If our consciences are well-formed, we will discern the signs of the times and work together to build a civilization of love.

It is important to note Pope John XXIII’s (1961) advice in his encyclical: *Mother and Teacher*: “It is not enough merely to formulate a social doctrine; it must be translated into reality” (#226).

We can do so by being living witnesses to our faith, which is a gift from God. Let us continue to witness faithfully to this amazing gift and put our love in action.

### 3. TREASURER'S REPORT 2012

THE CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
unaudited  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR 2012

	CCSJ	Chancery	Petty Cash	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>				
Chancery	38,000.00	267,735.87		305,735.87
Fund raising dinner	58,500.00			58,500.00
Donations	5,210.00			5,210.00
Other income	1,293.55			1,293.55
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>103,003.55</b>	<b>267,735.87</b>		<b>370,739.42</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Advertising	19,947.90			19,947.90
Audit Fees	5,000.00			5,000.00
Books and Publications	794.00			794.00
Bank charges	160.00			160.00
Financial Assistance			980.00	980.00
Fund raising dinner	35,830.00		60.00	35,890.00
Miscellaneous	1,563.33		415.00	1,978.33
Postage and Stationery	5,460.60	130.00	175.00	5,765.60
Printing	3,783.36			3,783.36
Respect for Life Week	7,403.43			7,403.43
Seminars and Workshops	14,635.31	4,357.35	395.00	19,387.66
Salaries and Wages		252,102.09		252,102.09
Telephone and Internet		8,398.43		8,398.43
Training	1,158.46			1,158.46
TT Re-Integration Foundation	21,298.50			21,298.50
Meetings		2,498.00		2,498.00
Repairs and Maintenance		250.00		250.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>117,034.89</b>	<b>267,735.87</b>	<b>2,025.00</b>	<b>386,795.76</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(14,031.34)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,025.00)</b>	<b>(16,056.34)</b>
<b>Financed by :-</b>		<u>Opening Bal.</u>	<u>Closing Bal.</u>	
FCB Operating Account		8,123.58	8,034.13	89.45
Republic Bank Operating Account		24,005.19	7,722.30	16,282.89
Cash on hand		75.00	391.00	(316.00)
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>32,203.77</b>	<b>16,147.43</b>	
<b>Change in Funds</b>				<b>16,056.34</b>

### **Notes to Income and Expenditure Statement**

- (1) The balance of \$161,893.78 held at FCB investment account on behalf of the TTRF was paid over to TTRF on 17th July, 2012. As a result that account has since been closed. This account generated income of \$1,536.19 in 2012.
- (2) Total income increased marginally from \$368k in 2011 to \$371k in 2012. Funding from the Chancery increased by just under \$4k in 2012. Income generated by CCSJ in 2012 amounted to \$64,993. compared with \$65,835 in 2011.
- (3) The Fund-raising dinner realised total income of \$58,500 and expenditure amounted to \$38,890. resulting in net income of \$22,610. of which the sum of \$21,298.50 was donated to the TTRF.
- (4) Participants of the Business Leaders Workshop made a donation \$4,829 towards the workshop.
- (5) Other income comprised miscellaneous items e.g. compendium sales, bumper stickers, Tee shirts etc.
- (6) Salaries and stipends increased by 30% from \$193k to \$252k.
- (7) Overall expenditure increased by \$5,200.

Activity from current operations resulted in a deficit of \$16,056.34 in 2012 compared with \$3,492 in 2011. Capital expenditure in 2011 amounted to \$10,354.

Respectfully submitted by

Annette McKenzie  
Treasurer

#### **4. REPORT ON CCSJ'S WORK DURING 2012**

CCSJ is one of 19 Departments in the Archdiocese. As Episcopal Delegate for Social Justice, CCSJ's Chair is a member of the Archdiocesan Administrative Board which comprises:

The Vicar General and Episcopal Vicar for Family Life, the Episcopal Vicar for Communications, the Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation, the Directress of the Pontifical Mission Societies, the Chairman of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission, the Episcopal Delegate for Youth, the Judicial Vicar, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, the Chairman of the Council of Priests and Vicar for Health Services, the President of CREDI, the Chairman of Human Resources, the Chairman of the Archdiocesan Building Committee, the Director of Vocations, the Chairman of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Episcopal Delegate for Religious, the Financial Administrator, the Directress of Catechetics, the Chairman of the Catholic Education Board of Management, and the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Ministry. Our Shepherd, Archbishop Joseph Harris, leads the team.

The Synod Implementation Team (SIT), of which CCSJ's Chair is a member, seeks to further the Mission of the Church and to oversee the implementation of Synod Resolutions – including the 3 Pastoral Priorities.

For 1 ½ years from December 8, 2009 (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception) parishes, schools and Departments in the Archdiocese focused on the first Pastoral Priority – The New Evangelization: Catholic Family Become What You Are.

The second Pastoral Priority – Revitalizing Catholic Culture and Identity: My Church, My Parish, My Family, was launched on Corpus Christi, June 1, 2011. It is expected to run until 23 November, 2013 (the Feast of Christ the King).

SIT reminded the Faithful in Catholic News on 5 June, 2011:

“The Mission, to build the Civilisation of Love, is the reason for the Church's existence. It is what we are called to do and the deeper meaning and logic behind all of our activities. The three Pastoral Priorities are three interlocking and inseparable aspects of the Mission of the Church. New Evangelization, Catholic Culture and Identity and Moral and Spiritual Renewal refer back to the threefold mission of Prophet, Priest and King, and as such give focus to these in our unique context.

“In this sense a Pastoral Priority does not really end. It is the moving of the light from one part of the painting (New Evangelization) to another part (Catholic Culture and Identity). Because the Pastoral Priorities are integral to the Mission of the Church, they do not really begin or end. They are given more or less prominence.”

The overall Goals of the three PPs are as follows:

First: The New Evangelization: Goal - That all Catholics come to know Jesus and live their lives animated by His love, example and values resulting in the evangelization of culture and integral human development.

Second: Revitalizing Catholic Culture and Identity: Goal - That our Eucharistic worldview, our daily living and our celebrations are in the service of building a culture and identity that keeps the “memory of Jesus” alive; Jesus who died, to gather all who were scattered.

Third: Regenerating the Moral and Spiritual Values of our Society: Goal - That each Catholic, as a committed disciple of Christ, knows, lives and witnesses to the rich moral teaching of the Church and actively partners with people of goodwill towards the moral and spiritual renewal of Trinidad and Tobago.

CCSJ will play a key role in the implementation of the third Pastoral Priority which is expected to come ‘on-stream’ on the Feast of Christ the King – 23 November 2013. See **APPENDIX II** for the Goal and Resolutions for Pastoral Priority III

As is now the annual practice, CCSJ submitted its Pastoral Plan for 2012, along with all Departments, parishes, and schools, during Mass on 8 December. Archbishop Harris was the chief Celebrant at the Mass. CCSJ’s current and previous Plans are available on the Commission’s Website.

These plans are based on the Archdiocese’s Mission as well as the various Synod Resolutions. CCSJ has continued to play its part in promoting the 3 Pastoral Priorities identified in the Archdiocese's Mission Statement. During 2012 the 2nd Pastoral Priority, *Revitalizing Catholic Culture and Identity*, has informed CCSJ's work. Sr Juliet Rajah, Episcopal Delegate for Catechetics, has responsibility for taking a lead in implementing this Pastoral Priority. The 28-page booklet prepared by Sr Juliet – entitled: *Revitalising Catholic Culture and Identity: My Church, My Parish, My Family*, as well as the leaflet: *This is our Faith*, have been of assistance



in the Commission's work. It places the social doctrine of the Church at the centre of the Church's culture and identity e.g. p.14 of the Booklet states:

“The Roman Catholic Bishops of the Antilles in their document, *Justice and Peace in a New Caribbean*, says that today the Gospel demands that the Church, following in the footsteps of its Lord and Master, identify itself with the poor and oppressed, and make their struggles its own. The document also says that Christians have a duty to work to change society so that wealth is more fairly divided among all and that the gap which exists between wealth and poor is consistently and continually diminished...If we are to identify with Christ and His mission then we will have to be Christ in today's world – compassionate, forgiving, counter-cultural and in solidarity with the poor and the marginalised. The heart of our spirituality must flow from the heart of the Christian vocation, which is to lead a life of loving God by loving our neighbour.”

CCSJ urges everyone to read this Booklet which is available on the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office's Website – with the following link from CCSJ's website:  
<http://rcsocialjusticett.org/2.0/2012/07/23/revitalising-catholic-culture-and-identity/>

The leaflet, *This is our Faith*, which is also available on CCSJ's website, reminds the Faithful of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, the Gifts and the Fruits of the Spirit. Prayers, such as The Creed, remind us of some of the key tenets of our faith.

CCSJ's work throughout 2012 was varied. In seeking to promote Catholic Culture and Identity, CCSJ sought to:

- challenge and empower parishioners, in the spirit of solidarity and stewardship, to serve the community by promoting and creating opportunities, structures and programmes to achieve social justice;
- educate the People of God in values and virtuous living, based on the rich tradition of magisterial teaching and theological heritage of the Catholic moral tradition;
- devise and implement strategies to raise awareness of the wider community (Government, FBOs, NGOs, CBOs etc.) of the social teaching of the Catholic Church;
- encourage each Catholic parish/ school to become a community celebrating the dignity of human life, from conception to natural death, affirming and developing the whole person – promoting integral human development;

- celebrate the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person by promoting pro-life ministry – focusing on issues such as abortion, contraception, and the death penalty;
- raise the awareness of families, schools and parishes of the Catholic position on Creation and of our responsibility as stewards of Creation and to express this in relevant tangible ways e.g. Beach clean-up activities, and Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Restore projects;
- raise the awareness of families, schools and parishes about Catholic moral and spiritual values; encourage them to commit themselves to spiritual and moral renewal; and, as Church, to partner with people of good will in the building of a just and harmonious society;
- challenge and encourage Catholics in the Archdiocese, as followers of Christ, to live their faith in society/the world and to let the light of the Gospel and the social teaching of the Church shine on all their activities.

Outlined hereunder are key areas of CCSJ’s work undertaken during 2012:

## **A. Parish Link Programme**

Report by (Sr) Christine Walcott, Parish Link Coordinator:  
Covering the period: Jan 2012 - November 2012

The then-Sr Christine Walcott O.P. took up her duties as CCSJ’s Parish Link Coordinator (PLC) on 1 Sept. 2011. With 1 PLC to work in the 62 parishes in the Archdiocese, it was necessary for her to prioritise areas of focus and disseminate good practice. Her work also involved liaising with the Vicariate Link Coordinators (VLCs) whose job description includes responsibility to promote social justice in their respective Vicariates.

VLCs report to Msgr Llanos but report on social justice strategies to CCSJ’s Chair. This is done via Richard Smith, VLC, who coordinates their work in this area of responsibility and reports to CCSJ’s members at monthly meetings. For a large part of 2012 there were only 2 VLCs operating in the Archdiocese. Until her departure in November 2012, Christine liaised with them and with other Archdiocesan Departments to promote CCSJ’s goals. The following are some areas of activity in which CCSJ’s PLC was engaged. Inter alia, she:

- contacted parishes throughout the Archdiocese – via e-mail, telephone calls and visits, to confirm details of social justice teams – where they existed. She offered assistance to parishes that wished to start a social justice group and collected data regarding contact persons involved in promoting social

justice in each parish. This assisted in the process of updating CCSJ's database;

- attended a few meetings with VLCs to exchange information regarding plans to promote social justice in parishes – including plans to observe World Social Justice Day on 20 February, International Women's Day on March 8 and World Environment Day on June 5. Information on "best practices" was shared during these meetings and a commitment made to use these as models that can be disseminated throughout the Archdiocese. A common database of contacts within each parish was also shared;
- contacted and worked with some individuals who had completed the social justice online course offered by CCSJ in collaboration with CREDI and Dayton University;
- promoted through her work in parishes Archbishop Harris' request that the Faithful practise Corporal Works of Mercy;
- addressed a Confirmation class at St. Joseph's parish on Environmental justice;
- liaised with Paul Messiah at Rosary/Gonzales to support a Recycling Project there;
- liaised with Rhonda Earle to support Santa Rosa's Computer course for senior citizens. The Confirmation class in this parish assisted persons in need in Salibia by collecting food which was then taken to a named person in Salibia for distribution;
- met with the Chair of Assumption Parish's social justice team, Barry Edghill, and some members of the Committee there and discussed with them activities to assist youths and senior citizens in the parish;
- contacted the Social Justice Committee at St Theresa's, Woodbrook. This Committee has been active since 2003 and members are conscientiously implementing a project on environmental justice;

- met with Shirley Steele, Chair of the Social Justice Committee at Our Lady of Fatima, Curepe. A few members of this Committee continue to run a legal aid clinic and collaborated with another group in the parish to run a Holiday Camp in 2012 for less fortunate children who attend schools in the community;
- visited a number of parishes to support/initiate social justice projects e.g. she helped to establish a social justice Committee at Holy Cross parish, Santa Cruz. Fr Peter Hill attended the first meeting at which the Committee was established and supported the work of the group while he was based in his parish. Randy Joseph is the Chair of the Committee.
- attended meetings of some Social Justice Teams in the Archdiocese e.g. in Bourg Mulatresse and St Joseph, to assist members in realizing their goals. She attended the first meeting of the Social Justice Committee at St Joseph/Mt. D'Or on 16 February 2012. She undertook to serve as Chair of the group which has the support of individuals such as Dr Rose Osuji. The launch of the Committee was planned to coincide with World Day of Social Justice. Christine spoke briefly at 4 Masses on that day inviting parishioners to join/support the Committee.

During the year, the Committee worked to:

- collaborate with the Parish Council and its implementation team
- reach out to other parish groups and institutions in the community
- establish social justice teams in surrounding parishes
- promote projects and observances relating to social justice.

To support their work, the group published 2 articles in the parish Blog. The first was: "Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures", in commemoration of International Women's Day (8 March). The second was; "Mea Culpa", a reflection on Divine Mercy Sunday celebrated on 15 April, 2012.

The Committee also embarked on a long-term project to promote environmental justice through a "Recycle, Reuse, Reduce and Restore" programme. Members, with the approval of the parish priest, Fr Karol Wielgosz OP, placed a refuse sorting bin in St Joseph Church car park for the collection of glass, cans and plastic. The first phase of this project was commissioned on 22 April in observance of Earth Day. The Committee hopes to duplicate this project in the Mt. D'Or Parish and to extend it to neighbouring schools. The Committee meets monthly and although

parishioners are invited to join, there are only a few members on the Committee. As well as support from the parish priest, the Committee receives support from Ms Maria Pantin, Communications Department;

- visited Mary Care Centre (MCC) – CCSJ has overall responsibility for MCC (see Section E);
- attended the launch of the Religious Education book: Journey to Discovery. This book now incorporates key areas that were contained in CCSJ’s Virtues and Values Formation Programme Workbook and Teacher’s notes (VVFP). The programme was initially developed for Post-SEA students. It is now offered to students at a much earlier age. CCSJ’s Students’ Workbook and the Teachers’ notes prepared by the Commission for this programme, which is no longer in use, are available on the Commission’s website. Some Catholics in the region, including a few priests, have asked CCSJ for permission to use the material;
- organized a Seminar at which Sr Julie Peters delivered the feature address. It was held at the Parish Hall at Mary Immaculate Queen of the Universe, Bourg Mulatresse to observe International Women’s Day. The topic was: “Women as Daughters of God.” Attendance was very good and Sr Julie’s presentation was well received;
- participated in a Seminar for youths in this same parish at Bourg Mulatresse at which one Nicholas Roberts made a presentation on the theme: “Going Green.” Mr Roberts offered his services to the Social Justice Committee there to assist the parish with its recycling and gardening efforts as ways of caring for God’s Creation;
- visited the Principal at St. Joseph’s Convent , St Joseph, to discuss plans to observe International Women’s Day (IWD) on March 8, 2012 and joined CCSJ’s Chair who was invited to deliver the feature address at the school on IWD on the theme: Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures;
- represented CCSJ at a Stakeholder’s Consultation on the proposed establishment of a Civil Society Board. It was held at NAPA, POS. The Board will be a mechanism through which Civil Society, through elected representation, will be able to contribute to the development of national policy; communicate and coordinate views, social services and the interests of NGOs, CBIs, FBOs and CSOs. It is hoped that the Board will help to e.g.

- create a genuine participatory environment;
- promote principles of good governance;
- build capacity to exchange views and knowledge.

There is a plan to create a Civil Society Register covering 14 sectors: education, health, justice, business, labour, agriculture, environment, social development, property alteration, construction, culture and heritage, sports, youth, and Tobago affairs.

Some of the questions raised at the Consultation included:

- What should be the mandate of the Civil Society Board (CSB)?
  - What should be the objectives of the CSB?
  - What is your opinion on the issue of “Sector delegates” and on the proposed “Sectors”?
  - How might the CSB be best established to ensure representation of all Civil Society Organizations?
- liaised with Father Matthew D’Hereaux, Carapichaima, who agreed to offer up the Eucharist on a particular day to observe World Day of Social Justice (20 February);
  - conducted a half-day retreat for Standard 2 girls at Nelson Street Girls’ RC on the theme: Revitalizing Catholic Culture and Identity;
  - facilitated the Prayer Session at CCSJ’s annual retreat on Monday 12 March;
  - represented CCSJ at a consultation held at the Institute of International Relations, UWI on 5 April. CIVICUS World Alliance For Citizens Participation and the University of the West Indies worked together to consult on the emerging challenges civil society in Trinidad and Tobago faces. The theme of the Consultation was: Confronting the challenges facing humanity: a civil society agenda for 2013 – 2017. The literature for the consultation stated: “The CIVICUS alliance is embarking on a global consultative process to set a new civil society agenda for 2013 to 2017, it is exploring the needs and possibilities for civil society strengthening in the Caribbean. CIVICUS believes civil society currently faces a generational opportunity to prove its value as a source of alternatives and moral leadership at a time of global economic, political, social and ecological crisis.” CIVICUS is an international civil society alliance of members and partners in over 100 countries. (See: [www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org)).

- represented CCSJ at a 1-day Stakeholder Consultation on the Draft National Policy on Gender and Development (16 May 2012);
- distributed social justice leaflets and bumper stickers in some parishes;
- participated in an event at Princess Town parish at which CCSJ's Chair was the feature speaker;
- represented CCSJ at a Seminar organized by the Raja Yoga Centre on the theme: "Breaking the cycle of violence" – held at Daaga Hall, UWI. Inter alia, the Seminar focused on issues such as character training, the need for "champions" of good character, setting standards, taking responsibility for one's action, developing spirituality, finding new ways to promote the dignity of the human person, forgiveness, strategies for transforming the negative aspects of culture, restorative justice, mediation, penal reform and transformation, the crisis among males, positive peer pressure, defining masculine excellence, strategic planning and coordination of programmes, empowering individuals and communities, solutions to address "anger"– linked to the situations facing battered women, children and men,;
- represented CCSJ at a Workshop organized by TT Transparency Institute on Civil Society Accountability – Principles and Practice. A Toolkit produced by TTTI was shared with participants in this Train-the-Trainer Workshop.

## **Vicariate Link Coordinators' (VLC) Annual Report for 2012:**

Submitted by Richard Smith, VLC who is responsible for Coordinating Social Justice work among the VLCs. During 2012 the following individuals served as VLCs: Richard Smith, Sr Gail Jagroop (resigned on 31 October 2012), Deacon Mike Smith and Deacon Paul Bousignac.

In January 2012 the VLCs met with the then-Sr Christine Walcott, CCSJ's Parish Link Coordinator (PLC) at that time. Together, they agreed on specific areas of focus, including a commitment to commemorate the following UN Days:

- World day of Social Justice on 20 Feb
- International Women's Day on 8 March

- World Environment Day on 5 June e.g. the parish of St Francis of Assisi, Erin, held its first “Angels’ Day” on Ascension Sunday bringing children together from 4 parish communities. 160 children participated in a Mass for Youths. This was followed by an outing for the youths to the Agro-Eco Tourism Par at Rancho Quemado. They toured the estate and were afforded an opportunity to see the apiary, historic cocoa house and mini-zoo there.

During Lent in 2012 the VLCs encouraged parishes in their respective Vicariates to organise retreats/reflections on the theme: *Demonstrating our love by our good works*. Richard Smith, VLC for the Southern Vicariate, arranged for CCSJ's Chair to lead a Lenten Retreat on Friday 9 March at Holy Cross parish Church in Princess Town. The parish priest, Fr Kumar, was most welcoming and the turnout for the event was good, with many young people in attendance. CCSJ took the opportunity to distribute its 9 social justice leaflets at this event.

CCSJ's PLC, Christine, also attended the Retreat. Richard also organised a Lenten Retreat on March 21<sup>st</sup> at South Oropouche at which Gary Tagallie, a stalwart supporter of CCSJ, was the speaker.

In 2012 the VLCs updated their database of contacts in parishes, particularly in relation to those who were interested in establishing social justice projects in their parishes. These were shared with CCSJ's PLC to facilitate her work. The database includes contact details of those who attended the 2 Proposal Writing Workshops that CCSJ ran in 2011 – to assist individuals/parishes in accessing funds from the Ministry of the People and Social Development. Up to \$50,000 per project can be accessed via the Poverty Reduction Programme. Sadly, in spite of offers of support from the VLCs and PLC, no parish applied for funds.

Social justice work initiated by parishes include a 4-week computer training programme held in June and offered free of charge by volunteers in South Oropouche parish to members of the Fyzabad Chapter of the TT Association of Retired Persons (TTARP). Pointe-a-Pierre parish also recognised the need to cater for the needs of senior citizens by holding a special celebration for its oldest parishioner who celebrated her 107<sup>th</sup> birthday in June 2012. During 2012 Parishioners at La Romaine RC once again held a successful annual Health Fair in May and submitted information about this to CCSJ for inclusion in the Commission's Parish Link Newsletter – to share good practice.

The VLCs also support parishes as they work in clusters e.g. on Corpus Christi 2012, the 10 communities of Cedros and Point Fortin joined in procession through



the streets of the Southern Peninsula of TT. There was a large turnout and a clear indication that Catholics in TT are alive and present. Following Mass, those gathered shared local foods and socialized with each other in fellowship. Richard (VLC) said it was truly a memorable occasion.

VLCs encourage parishes to participate in activities organised for Civil Society e.g. the Parish Administrator and a parishioner in New Grant parish attended the National Consultation on proposals to establish a Civil Society Board – organised by the Ministry of National Diversity and Social Integration and held in Princess Town.

VLCs also took the opportunity to attend training sessions during the year e.g. Richard attended a workshop of Transparency International TT on 2 June at Paria Suites on the theme: Accountability in Community Service Organizations.

During the year, VLCs were also involved in promoting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pastoral Priority: Revitalizing Catholic Culture and Identity. They reported that parishes were making every effort to build Catholic Culture, with special activities as well as putting more effort into already existing programmes and activities. For example, Sr Gail reported that “greater effort was seen in the suburban Vicariate in the area of educating the Faithful in Catholic Culture. The *Know Your Faith* Series was offered to the entire Vicariate (held in Tunapuna parish) and Catholicism 201 was held in Curepe parish. Curepe and St Joseph collaborated on this initiative. Confirmation, Youth Group and Baptism programmes were “revitalized”.

“In the Central Vicariate parishes worked on their own to build Catholic Culture in parishes by fostering community activities. Chaguanas held a Parish Assembly and Carapichaima, Gran Couva and Couva focused on building communication. A Text Messaging Service, Good Neighbour Project and a *cook out* was held in Couva. Outreach activities included processions and Gran Couva and Tortuga held Rallies.

“Various parishes/communities e.g. Tunapuna, Carapichaima, Mt St Benedict, the Charismatic Centre, Curepe, from both Suburban and Central Vicariates opened their doors and extended good Christian hospitality to a number of groups and held a variety of functions at a Vicariate and national level. The Carnival season saw some parishes/schools (Fatima Church, Mayo RC in Tortuga) organizing carnival activities in an effort to imbue Catholic values into the festival.”

Sr. Gail also reported on the special Mass held for the sick and house-bound persons in St Joseph parish. Parishioners assisted by providing transport, food and hospitality. Parishes such as this one make good use of the Cancer Society Mobile Unit e.g. it was based in this parish on 26 March.

In the Northern Vicariate the following was reported:

St John the Evangelist: The Junior SVP group held a “Meals on Wheels” programme on 10 August and an outreach session on 21 September. The group also hosted a Youth Workshop to discuss Youth and Chastity – targeting youth and young adults – 16+ years. Ms Susan Henry of the Family Life Commission addressed the group on the theme: “Is Love Forever?” Fr Nathansingh led a Parish Walkabout on 26 February.

In December the SVP Chapter in St Anthony’s parish, Diego Martin, distributed food hampers to needy persons. The Youth Ministry gave “shoeboxes” of gifts to residents at homes for senior citizens. An outreach Crusade was held at Valley Harps Pan Yard from 26-30 March. At St Patrick Parish, senior citizens collected funds and purchased stationery supplies for 5 schools in Toco.

VLCs circulated to parishes during 2012 information on social justice and encouraged them to observe various international days e.g. Earth Day, the International Day of Families, and World Social Justice Day.

The absence of reports from 2 Vicariates in no way implies that social justice activities were not implemented there during 2012. Overall, the year has been challenging for some VLCs as Rev Mike Smith was unwell for a while and Rev Paul Bousignac was studying and had exams. Sr Gail resigned in October 2012. The 62 parishes in the Archdiocese all engage in Works of Mercy. The challenge is to encourage parishes to increase the level of outreach and to promote social action – to ensure that we are walking with the 2 feet of Christian Service i.e. Works of Mercy and Works of Social Action.

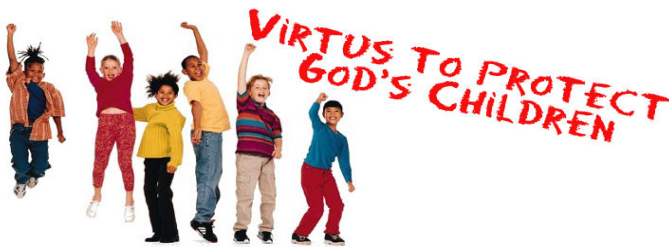
## **B. SOCIAL JUSTICE ONLINE COURSE – PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CCSJ, UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON AND CREDI (THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE):**

Of the 30 persons who registered for this online course since 2009, only 11 persons have successfully completed the course. Of the 2 persons registered for the 2012 course, only 1 person completed the course. The Challenge for the Commission is

to encourage the Faithful to see such a course as a vital part of ongoing faith formation.

CCSJ's aim is to educate the faithful on the social doctrine of our Church so that they can SEE, JUDGE, and ACT from a Catholic perspective. The Commission recruits those who have completed the course to help educate Catholics in their parishes. They are encouraged to use the knowledge gained from the Course to demonstrate love for neighbour e.g. 2 of the graduates from Santa Rosa parish ran a six weeks Computer Course for senior citizens to honour the United Nations International Day for Older Persons in 2011. On the opening day there were approximately thirty participants.

### **C. VIRTUS: PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN: ([www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org))**



(photo from Archdiocese of Kansas City, USA)

All members of the clergy, employees, and volunteers working in the Archdiocese and those whose roles put them in contact with children and/or youths are required to attend a child safety awareness program designed for adults called *VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children* from child sexual abuse.

Overall responsibility for the programme falls within the remit of Family Life Commission (FLC). Dr Dexter and Mrs Frieda Shim, (FLC), are the Archdiocesan Coordinators/facilitators. CCSJ's Chair is a member of the Archdiocesan Committee responsible for organizing VIRTUS Training in our Archdiocese. CCSJ's Chair is also a Facilitator during training sessions.

The AEC Bishops are committed to implement this Programme. Mahalia Paul, Dominica is the regional Coordinator. Training is ongoing. During 2011/2012 a number of training workshops were held for members of the Clergy, Heads of Department, members of Religious Congregations, Catechists & RE Teams, Principals of Catholic Schools and the Principals' Association (Principals of privately run Catholic Schools were also be invited to attend and some did attend),

Staff working in Catholic Schools: teachers, ancillary staff, security staff, Managers and staff working in Catholic residential homes and in other private Catholic institutions, Volunteers, Ecclesial Communities and Prayer Groups.

Although sessions are well attended, it should be noted that not all personnel in each category has been trained. Therefore, on-going training sessions are planned. The challenge is to ensure that participants register online and engage in ongoing online training. There is also a plan to develop a train-the-trainer programme to train parents, including members of PTAs and students.

#### **D. CCSJ's WELLNESS PROJECT: DIABETES PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT**

This Project was launched at Assumption Parish Centre on Saturday 4 December 2010. Dr Kenwyn Nicholls returned to TT after practising as a Doctor in the USA for many years. He offered his services free of charge to CCSJ to implement this Project. Sadly, not many parishes have taken up the offer of listening to Dr Nicholls and of viewing his excellent power-point presentation on this issue. His paper 'Health: Diabetes' is available under *Special Focus* on CCSJ's website. After a poor turnout at some of the venues where CCSJ organised Seminars on this issue, the Commission decided to tape one of his sessions and has produced a DVD for use by parishes wishing to focus on the issue.

There are more than 143,000 persons in TT with Type 2 Diabetes and more than 103,000 who are Pre-Diabetic. Dr Nicholls says that TT has the highest number of amputees in the region – for persons with Diabetes.

On 13 March 2012, the John Hopkins Medicine International highlighted on its website that “The most current and comprehensive study in almost a decade of people with diabetes and the health care services they receive in Trinidad and Tobago was completed by a team of experts from the Trinidad and Tobago Health Sciences Initiative's (TTHSI) Diabetes Outreach Program. The survey focused on the South-West region.

“The survey revealed that only 1 percent of patients self-monitor their glucose levels and only one-third can recall having a hemoglobin A1C test, an important step in achieving long-term glucose control and in minimizing the risk of serious complications.”

The Study stated that TT ranks “among the countries with the most prevalent and fastest-growing number of cases of this chronic and potentially life-threatening

disease. According to the Diabetes Association of Trinidad and Tobago (DATT), it is the nation's second leading cause of death. Every year, 1,000 adults in the island nation are diagnosed with diabetes, adding to a population of more than 150,000 patients nationwide, a rate of diabetes prevalence (12 to 13 percent) that is almost twice the global average."

(See link:

[www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/media/releases/study\\_reveals\\_significant\\_gaps\\_in\\_patient\\_self\\_management...](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/media/releases/study_reveals_significant_gaps_in_patient_self_management...))

As the Express reported on 3 March 2013: "The research found that nearly all the patients lacked an understanding of how to manage their diabetes and how the disease affects the body."

[http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Delinquent\\_diabetics-194717671.html](http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Delinquent_diabetics-194717671.html)

This is a key social justice issue. Each person has a duty to sustain his/her body to promote the sanctity of life and his/her dignity as a human person.

## **E. PRO-LIFE WORK AND MARY CARE CENTRE**

CCSJ is committed to build a culture of life and a civilization of love in TT. In a land that faces so many social ills; with so many losing their lives as a result of crime and violence, there is an urgent need to promote the fundamental value of life from conception to natural death. Inter alia, CCSJ's education programmes and pastoral work throughout the Archdiocese aim to raise awareness of the need for each of us "to respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life." — The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae), n.5. Promoting integral human development is the work of everyone.

CCSJ continues to maintain vigilance to ensure that our laws against abortion remain intact. The Commission expresses the views of the Catholic Church on pro-life issues fearlessly in the market place. Where Draft Government Policies contain clauses/provisions that, from a Catholic perspective, will not help to promote a culture of life or to build the common good, CCSJ works with other faith communities, where necessary, to urge that these clauses and provisions are excised from the Draft Policies e.g. the draft National Policy on Gender and Development and the draft Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy from the Ministry of Health.

**Mary Care Centre:** The Church, in its commitment to promote and defend life in all circumstances and at all stages, and to promote integral human development, continues to offer opportunities for young women to have their babies and to live in dignity e.g. through the work of *Mary Care Centre*, a sanctuary in Woodbrook for unmarried, pregnant, young women. “The centre is a non-profit organisation funded by donations received from the private and public sector. The Centre opens wide its door to young, pregnant, unmarried women from throughout the region regardless of their background or religious beliefs and tries to impart to them that the value of life is sacred. The objectives of Mary Care Centre are two-fold:

\*To provide a safe and secure environment for the pregnant mother to give birth to her child.

\*To enable the young mother to be employable at the end of her stay at the Centre.”

MCC was founded in 1980 by the late Archbishop of Port of Spain, Most Reverend Anthony Pantin, in his concern for and commitment to the preservation of life. On June 29, 2011, MCC was rededicated by the then-Archbishop, Edward Gilbert.

The spiritual, physical and psychological needs of young women at MCC are nurtured towards self-development and growth. A doctor visits the facility weekly to tend to the needs of the young women. Often the young women who enter MCC have had a number of traumatic experiences in their lives. MCC provides them with a peaceful, spiritually uplifting, happy home. Some are referred to MCC from POS General Hospital, the Magistracy and from certain institutions.

MCC falls within the remit of CCSJ but is run on a daily basis by Deborah de Rosia, Eternal Light Community (ELC). CCSJ’s Chair and Ms Bernadette Patrick, the Head of the Archdiocese’s Finance Department, form the Board that has oversight of the work of this Centre. The Archdiocese contributes towards the running cost of MCC and is responsible for any Capital expenditure on the property which belongs to the Archdiocese. ELC raises funds to run the Centre. A number of individuals contribute on a monthly basis. They responded to ELC’s Advert in Catholic News for “Mary Care Angels”. Donations received by MCC include money, furniture such as cribs, baby-walkers and clothes. Due to the economic downturn, the level of donations has dropped but the Centre continues its fundraising efforts. (In 2013, for the first time, some monies were given to the Centre from the Government’s Children’s Fund).

ELC has appointed a Board, led by Deborah, to ensure the effective running of the Centre. There are 7 Board members. They meet on a monthly basis. In 2012 the staff at MCC comprised 2 full-time caregivers and 1 administrator. MCC keeps in touch with the young women's families and discuss with them pertinent issues as they arise. The Centre ensures that the young women keep all their hospital appointments. During 2012 MCC approached the Canadian Women's Association (CWA) for assistance. The CWA arranged for internet service and Flow to be installed and for cupboards to be painted at the Centre.

During 2012 MCC catered for the need of 14 young women – 3 of whom were over 17 years old. The youngest person at the Centre was 12 years old. As stated earlier, MCC opens its doors to young women of various religious persuasions e.g. during 2014 residents at MCC included Catholics, Muslims, Hindus, Pentecostal, and Seventh Day Adventist.

Most of the young women remain at the Centre until 3 months after the birth of their child(ren). Deborah and her team are to be commended for the excellent work in which they are engaged. They face many challenges but do so joyfully in their efforts to build God's Kingdom.

During the year one of the young women had twins. For a variety of reasons, it was not possible for her to return home. Initially, it was agreed that Deborah would keep the children in one of ELC's homes and that the young lady would visit them whenever she wished. Thankfully, one of the young lady's aunts eventually agreed to build an extra room for her in her house and she took her in with her babies. Most of the time the young women are reintegrated into their families' homes.

During 2012 the young women attended the Programme: *Choices*, from 8 am to 2 pm, Mondays to Fridays, at Alfredo Street, POS. The programme is run across TT, for pregnant teenagers or adolescents - particularly first-time mothers between the ages of 13 and 19. It is "a collaborative effort between the Ministry of the People and Social Development and The Child Welfare League of Trinidad and Tobago." Inter alia, it offers:

- "Day care services.
- Individual and group counselling.
- Skills training, literacy training, and academic courses.
- Health and nutrition information, parenting courses, and personal development training."

The young women receive a stipend from the Government at the end of each month. Staff members at MCC are often invited to attend Seminars at that particular Ministry. Such Seminars are of use to staff. Once again, CCSJ wishes to affirm Deborah and her team at MCC for their dedication and commitment to this important area of pro-life work.

## **F. Respect For Life Week - Saturday 6 – Saturday 13 October, 2012:**

The Theme chosen for RFLW in 2012 was: *Respect Life: Be living witnesses to our Faith* – to coincide with the Year of Faith which commenced on 11 October 2012 and will run until 24 November 2013 (The Feast of Christ the King).

It is important to remember that the observation of RFLW was a strategy recommended at the 3<sup>rd</sup> sitting of Synod in 2009. The suggestion was that each year the Archdiocese should observe a week focusing specifically on Respect for ALL Life. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that the Archdiocese observed RFLW. In a Media Release, CCSJ stated that while this is an initiative organised by the Catholic Church, all citizens were urged to focus during RFLW on ways in which we can all Respect Life. The Commission highlighted the opportunity afforded during the week to re-commit ourselves to promote the sanctity of life and the dignity of each human person and to promote environmental justice. These are seen as key elements to achieve integral human development for TT's citizens.

It was agreed that in 2012 CCSJ would reduce the number of national events planned and encourage parishes, schools and other Catholic organisations to take the initiative and organise events also. CCSJ would like to record its thanks to all those who assisted in planning and executing activities during the week.

The programme for the week was as follows:

**Sat 6 Oct** – the public were invited to attend the *Sir Ellis Clarke Memorial Conference* which launched RFLW. It was held on Saturday 6 October at Assumption Parish Centre, Maraval, from 4:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Speakers included Archbishop Joe Harris; His Excellency Archbishop Nicola Girasoli, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop; and Fr Garfield Rochard.

Once again all activities for RFLW were planned and implemented in collaboration with other Departments in the Archdiocese e.g. Sr. Juliet Rajah, Episcopal Delegate for Catechetics, prepared the **Prayer Supplement** which was printed in Catholic News at the beginning of RFLW. The Poster, Prayer Card and Newsletter which CCSJ prepared and distributed were appreciated by many.



The theme of CCSJ's Essay Competition in 2012 was: *Respect Life: Be Living Witnesses to Our Faith*. The winners were:

- Under 14: Lysaundra D. Campbell, St Charles High School;
- 14 and over: Gionieva Fraser, St. Joseph's Convent Port- of Spain.

(See photo on front cover of this Report). CCSJ records its thanks to Shirley Tappin, Beverly Gomes-Nunez and Sr Roberta O'Flaherty, CCSJ member, who judged the essay competition.

The essays of the winners are available on CCSJ's Website. Also available on the website are the media release, the prayer supplement, and Archbishop Harris' opening address at the launch of RFLW. See:

<http://rcsocialjusticett.org/2.0/2012/10/05/respect-for-life-week-oct-6-13-2012/>

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR RFLW:**

The following activities were planned either by CCSJ or by parishes. Parish Priests were asked to offer up intercessory prayers at all Masses during RFLW, that the Faithful will integrate their Faith in their daily lives by respecting all life/all God's Creation.

#### **Saturday 6 October:**

- Assumption Parish Centre. 4:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Launch of RFLW Sir Ellis Clarke Memorial Conference (on the theme). Speakers: His Excellency, Archbishop Nicola Girasoli, Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Joseph Harris, Fr Garfield Rochard.
- Holy Cross, Santa Cruz. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Blood Donor Drive with Blood Bank.
- Holy Rosary Parish – Dramatisation of the Rosary at 6:00 p.m.
- St Theresa's RC Church, Woodbrook – Activities relating to the parish's Recycling Project – Stewardship of God's creation. (Also on Sunday).

#### **Sunday 7 October:** (Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary)

St Rose's Girls' RC School, Henry St., POS. 9:00 a.m. Mass followed by a procession through the streets.

### **Monday 8 October:**

St Charles Church, Tunapuna. 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Prayer session incorporating the RFLW theme. Led by Deborah de Rosia, Eternal Light Community.

### **Tuesday 9 October:**

All citizens were asked to find time to pray with their family and to have a meal together.

### **Wednesday 10 October:**

UN International World Day against the Death Penalty: The Faithful were asked to pray the Rosary for peace in TT/the world; for an end to crime and violence, for the victims of crime, for the adoption of anti-crime strategies that are more in keeping with the sanctity of all life and the dignity of the human person, and for the abolition of the Death Penalty.

### **Thursday 11 October:**

\* Everyone was asked to offer up prayers e.g. using the prayer supplement in Oct 7 *Catholic News* as Pope Benedict XVI launched *The Year of Faith*.

\* Staff at Archbishop's House gathered in the Chapel to pray (using the prayers published in *Catholic News*). Special prayers were offered up as the Holy Father launched the Year of Faith.

\* His Grace invited everyone to join him at Archbishop's House at 27 Maraval Rd., POS from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to pray the Sorrowful Mysteries. Prayers were offered up for the Nation and for the needs of the Archdiocese. (Praying the Rosary with His Grace continued on all Thursdays in October - 4, 11, 18, 25 Oct.).

### **Friday 12 October:**

\* A Prayer Vigil was held at Emmanuel Community, Rosalino Street, Wookbrook from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on the RFLW theme, with a specific focus on *Respect for the Unborn* and the need to build a *Culture of Life*.

\* A Vigil was held on the theme at St Dominic's Church, Penal.

## **Saturday 13 October:**

\* CCSJ's Parish Link Coordinator and the St Joseph's Social Justice Team organised a tree-planting ceremony and launched a Recycling Project (Respecting God's creation) - held at St Joseph's RC Church, St Joseph

\* A Panel Discussion on aspects of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: was held at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Centre, Curepe from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Louise Zamora focused on *The Creed*; Sr Marie Young, HF: *The Sacraments*; Rhonda Earle & Bernadette Ramkhalawan: *Moral Teaching*; Sr Juliet Rajah: *Prayer*. Moderator: Leela Ramdeen

## **Sunday 14 October:**

Some parishes held activities after the designated 'RFLW' had ended e.g. Fr Arnold Francis, parish priest at the Church of Mary Immaculate Queen of the Universe, Bourg Mulatresse, and CCSJ's Chair addressed parishioners at a Seminar held in the parish hall on Sunday 14 Oct, 2012 on the Theme: *Live the Faith and respect Life*. Their presentations were followed by a Panel discussion. The session was organized by Andrea Joseph-Huthinson – one of the graduates of CCSJ's social justice online course. The parish youth group performed some excellent skits highlighting certain injustices in TT society e.g. the way in which one is treated in a private hospital as opposed to a State-run hospital in TT.

Reports of some initiatives taken by some parishes and schools were reported in Catholic News. A number of parishes focused on environmental justice as part of RFLW activities.

## **G. CCSJ's Communications Strategy: Local & International**

To promote the formation of the faithful, CCSJ uses the media/new technology which assist in raising the faithful's awareness of the teachings and the values of the Catholic Church, for example, through appearances by CCSJ members on radio and TV programmes and through CCSJ's publications which focus on various aspects of Social Justice.

The media/ new technologies offer CCSJ an opportunity to promote advocacy/social action as well as social service, motivate others to take action to transform society/the world to reflect Gospel values.

## **a. Resource Production:**

**i. Contribution to Archdiocesan Booklet:** At a meeting on 14 March 2012, Msgr Robert Llanos, Vicar General, asked Heads of Department in the Archdiocese to produce a Plan of Action for their respective Commissions/Department - covering the period June 2011 - March 2012. CCSJ's plan was circulated to members and was uploaded on the Commission's website.

The various reports were submitted to CAMSEL and were published in a booklet which was given to Archbishop Edward Gilbert as a memento. The reports covered the 10 year period of his service in the Archdiocese (from 2003). CCSJ's work undertaken during this period is also included in the booklet.

**ii. CCSJ's Newsletters:** are distributed widely e.g. to parish priests, schools, Archdiocesan Departments/Organisations. During 2012 the following were issued. These can be accessed on the Commission's website:

January 2012 : Theme: Pope's World Day of Peace 2012 Message: Educating Young People in Justice and Peace

March 2012: Theme: Pope Benedict XVI's 2012 Lenten Message: "We must not remain silent before evil" – based on a reflection taken from Hebrews 10:24: "Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works."

June 2012: Theme: Linking Faith with good works. Examples of good social justice practice in our Archdiocese were shared in this Newsletter. It is hoped that the examples will motivate the Faithful to engage in works of mercy also. Readers were asked to take action in their homes and in their parish communities to reach out to those in need.

September 2012: Theme: Extracts from the *Note with Pastoral recommendations for the Year of Faith* by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, published to support Pope Benedict XVI's declaration of the Year of Faith and his Apostolic Letter: *Porta Fidei*. Also included in the Newsletter was the Calendar of Events for Respect For Life Week (Saturday October 6 to Saturday October 13).

November 2012: Theme: Archbishop Joseph Harris' Pastoral Letter which was issued on Sunday 14 October. Readers were invited to study it with their family, friends, parishioners and with all people of Goodwill.

**iii. CCSJ's 2012 Calendar** which highlights the links between Catholic Culture and Identity and Social Justice was widely circulated e.g. to parishes, schools, other Departments. The Commission uses this as a 'teaching' tool to raise awareness of social justice issues. The wording on the 2012 Calendar includes the following:

“Catholic Culture and Identity and Social Justice: To revitalise Catholic Culture and Identity in our Archdiocese (Pastoral Priority 2), we must commit ourselves to be active in Ministry. An integral part of our Ministry must be a commitment to justice: ‘The teaching and spreading of her social doctrine are part of the Church’s evangelizing mission. Since it is a doctrine aimed at guiding people’s behaviour, it consequently gives rise to a ‘commitment to justice,’ according to each individual’s role, vocation, and circumstances.’ (The Social Concern of the Church, n.41, Blessed John Paul II).

The Holy Spirit is working in the life of our Church in Trinidad and Tobago. We will achieve our mission if we stand in solidarity with each other to:

- Protect and promote the dignity of each human person and the sanctity of life
- Promote integral human development (the development of each dimension of a person and of each person)
- Strengthen family life, build community and the common good
- Promote human rights and meet our responsibilities
- Act as advocates for the poor and vulnerable
- Promote economic justice e.g. by ensuring that the economy works for the people
- Be good stewards of God’s creation – the gifts that God has given to us e.g. by promoting environmental/ecological justice
- Promote participation in the economic, political, social and cultural life of society
- Build a world in which justice, peace, truth, love, and freedom become a reality.

May we all be true witnesses to our FAITH as we continue to work in His vineyard.”

**iv. CCSJ's Take-a-Bite series:** A few years ago CCSJ arranged for 5 DVDs to be produced on the following 5 themes:

Overview of Social Justice: Fr Jason Gordon

Human Life and Dignity: Sr Diane Jagdeo

Stewards of God's Creation: Dr John Agard

Rights and Responsibilities: Leela Ramdeen

Global Solidarity: Fr Malcolm Rodrigues.

The DVDs were copied and circulated in packs of 5 to parishes as an educational tool. Further copies of the DVDs are available from CCSJ's Office.

**v. Nine Leaflets** focusing on various social justice themes were distributed during 2012 via the Parish Link Coordinator to raise awareness of the issues among the Faithful.

**vi. Bumper stickers** with the caption: "*Just DO it - For JESUS*" were produced by CCSJ during 2012. These were circulated widely. They were produced these response to Archbishop Harris' request that the Synod Implementation Team should adopt strategies to encourage the faithful to do something good for Jesus each day. This idea is linked to God's commandment to love God and love our neighbour (see Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy).

Previously, CCSJ had produced bumper stickers with the caption: "*Catholic and Committed*" as part of our contribution to raising awareness of the Archdiocese's 3 Pastoral Priorities.

**vii. The Rosary, Sacred Spaces and Social Justice:** CCSJ embarked on a Project called entitled: *The Rosary, Sacred Spaces and Social Justice*. CCSJ's Chair spent about 8 days going around the country with a photographer taking photos of RC Churches and chapels - inside and outside. The photos collected, including wonderful photos of stained glass windows in our Churches, will be used to produce a DVD for distribution to parishes as a useful resource. Phase 1 of the production has been completed. One of our goals is to remind Catholics that our Churches and Chapels are sacred spaces. We used the photographs as a backdrop against which members of staff at The Chancery were taped while they prayed the Divine Mercy Rosary. CCSJ thanks Gregory Wong Fo Sue, a composer, who

composed the music especially for this initiative. Visitors to CCSJ's website can listen to the audio which starts with a reflection by CCSJ's Chair on the concept of "Sacred Space" and ends with prayers that focus on various aspects of social justice.

Phase 2 of the Project will involve using technology to link the reflections/prayers on social justice issues. A DVD will be produced showing the pictures of our Churches while the Divine Mercy Rosary is being prayed – together with social justice prayers/reflections. The DVD will be distributed to parishes as an educational tool.

**b. Website:** (<http://rcsocialjusticett.org>): CCSJ records its thanks to Raymond Syms who does an excellent job as the Commission's Webmaster. Statistics relating to the number of persons who visited our website during 2012 are available in **APPENDIX III**.

In such a competitive media environment, it is essential that our website is regularly updated. Archbishop Harris' weekly homily and CCSJ's weekly article that appear in Catholic News are uploaded to provide material for the formation of the faithful about the Church's teaching on Social Justice. Feedback received from visitors to the website continues to inform the Commission's work. Overall, there has been an increase in the number of visitors to the website. Raymond Syms believes that the increase is due to the fact that new content is added on a weekly basis and at times even more regularly than this. Also, the variety of topics covered is of interest to many. The following are some of the information that readers can access on the website:

**i. 2012 Commentaries available on CCSJ's website:**

- Death penalty debate continues: Posted on February 8th, 2012: Leela Ramdeen, chair of the Catholic Commission for Social Justice, is interviewed Feb 7 on CNMG's 'First Up' morning programme by hosts Paul Richards and Jessie Mae Ventour. (Video footage courtesy CNMG).

- Death Penalty – The Value of Life: Posted on February 13th, 2012: Excerpt from 'Shepherd's Corner' Thursday, 2 February 2012: Death Penalty – The Value of Life The Most Reverend Archbishop Joseph Harris, Archbishop of Port-of-Spain

- Commemorative Essay: Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero on the Political Dimension of Faith: Posted on March 29th, 2012: This analysis was prepared by

Frederick B. Mills, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow, Council on Hemispheric Affairs, Professor of Philosophy, Department of History and Government at Bowie State University. Mills is a board member of the Association for Educational Development in El Salvador, Inc.

- 9th World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, May 21st 2012 in light of Catholic Social Justice and Human Rights: Posted on May 15th, 2012

- Paper by Renessa Tang Pack, 2011 Graduate of University of Dayton/ CREDI Certificate of Social Justice Course.

**ii. Speeches and presentations delivered during 2012: posted on website:**

- Family Life Commission's Convention for Separated, Divorced, and Widowed: What does God have to do with me now?

- Lenten reflection delivered to parishioners at Holy Cross RC Church, Princess Town March 9: Demonstrating our love by our good works –International Women's Day presentation at St Joseph's Convent, St Joseph March 8: Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures

- ICOPA Conference: Social exclusion and punishing assumptions June 14

- Address at IRO AGM on June 16: The role of the family in nation-building

- Rights and Responsibilities: 3<sup>rd</sup> in *Know Your Faith* series on June 27

- Faith in the context of The Year of Faith: Sept 27 address at UWI Chaplaincy

- Live the Faith and respect Life: Oct 14 address at Bourg Mulatresse Church during RFLW 2012

- Working towards a National Gender Policy that is Christ-centred : Nov 7 address at Fatima Church parish hall .

**iii. CCSJ's Ask Why monthly TV programmes** are available on DVDs on CCSJ's website and are advertised in the Commission's Newsletters as resources to support social justice Ministry in parishes. During 2012, the following topics were addressed on these programmes:



24 January: Pope Benedict XVI's World Day of Peace: Educating Young People in Justice and Peace. Panellists: Kijana King, Nadine Bushell, Maureen, Moderator – Leela Ramdeen

**March 13: The Pope's Lenten message for 2012**

Panellists: Fr Clyde Harvey, Fr Robert Christo  
Moderator: Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ

**April 24: Eradicating Child Abuse and Domestic Violence**

Panellists: Margaret Sampson-Browne, Manager of the Police Service's Victim and Witness Support Unit,  
Franklyn Dolly, CEO, Dolly and Associates – Professional Training and Coaching  
Phillip Alexander, Chair of The Jericho Project  
Moderator: Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ

**May 22: March for Jesus: Following in His Footsteps**

Panellist: Rhonda Maingot, LWC  
Moderator: Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ

**June 26: Observing UN International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**

Panellists: Hulsie Bhaggan, New Life Ministries  
Esther Best, Director, TT National Drug Council  
Moderator: Leela Ramdeen, Chair

**July 17: 50 Years of Independence: Time for Spiritual Renewal**

Panellists: Fr Martin Sirju, Parish Priest, La Divina Pastora, Siparia; and Deborah de Rosia, Eternal Light Community  
Moderator: Leela Ramdeen, Chair

25 September: Preparing for Respect for Life Week

Panellists: Msgr Mike de Verteuil, Bernadette Price , and Fr Robert Cristo

Moderator: Leela Ramdeen

**Oct 23: The National (2013) Budget and Social Justice**

Panellists: Mary King, former Minister of Planning  
Louis Bertrand, managing director, HHB & Associates  
Moderator: Leela Ramdeen, Chair

## **27 November: A Catholic approach to human sexuality**

Panellists: Dr Peter Gentle and Fr George Pritchett.

Moderator: Tonia Gooding

### **iv. Media Releases – posted on CCSJ’s Website:**

During 2012, CCSJ issued 6 media releases on various topics (see below). The releases can be accessed on CCSJ’s website.

Jan 16 – CCSJ calls for urgent action to curb child abuse in TT

Feb 11 – CCSJ calls for self-control in dress and behaviour during Carnival

Jun 20 - CCSJ on National Gender Policy – issues of concern

Sept 20 - CCSJ calls for a budget that meets moral obligations

Oct 3 - CCSJ calls on the nation to observe Respect for Life Week

Oct 9 - CCSJ calls for prayer and reflection on World Day Against The Death Penalty

**v. Weekly articles in Catholic News during 2012:** CCSJ continues to produce weekly articles in Catholic News – focusing on social justice issues. These can be accessed on CCSJ’s website.

### **vi. Other useful information on CCSJ’s website:**

- Archbishop Harris’ comments on same sex unions
- Information about Respect For Life Week 2012

### **vii. Papers posted under: *Special Focus* on CCSJ’s website:**

- Trafficking in Persons
- Health: Diabetes: Prevention and Management, by Dr Kenwyn Nicholls
- Towards an Archdiocesan Policy on the Environment (3 papers)
- Capital Punishment
- Strengthening T&T’s capacity to support families (Conference Report)

**viii. Social Justice Quotations published in Catholic News weekly - to raise awareness of the social doctrine of the Church**

CCSJ wishes to thank Mr Rene Wihby who remains dedicated to the joyful task of submitting a brief quotation - weekly - on the social doctrine of the Church for publication in Catholic News. The following are the quotations that he submitted during 2012. The aim is to raise readers' awareness of the richness of the Church's social doctrine and to motivate readers to educate themselves on this issue to assist them to SEE, JUDGE, and ACT. Included hereunder are a few of these quotations. The entire list can be accessed on CCSJ's website:

**January 1:** The family is the primary cell of society; "it is in the family that children learn the human and Christian values which enable them to have a constructive and peaceful co-existence. It is in the family that they learn solidarity between the generations, respect for rules, forgiveness and how to welcome others." The family is the first school in which we are trained in justice and peace. [ (2) Pope Benedict XVI, *World Day of Peace Message 2012.*]

**May 6:** Excessive economic and social disparity between individuals and people of the one human race is a source of scandal and militates against social justice, equity, human dignity, as well as social and international peace [ (29) *Gaudium et Spes: The Church in the Modern World, Vatican Council II* ].

**May 13:** God destined the earth and all it contains for all people and nations so that all created things would be shared fairly by all humankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity [ (69) *Gaudium et Spes: The Church in the Modern World: Vatican Council II*].

**June 24:** If the Church is involved in defending or promoting human dignity, she does so in accordance with her mission. She has learned that an indispensable part of her evangelising mission is made up of works on behalf of justice and human promotion [ *Puebla, Mexico, 1979. Apostolic Letter On the Coming of the Third Millennium, Blessed Pope John Paul II* ].

**September 2: Care of Creation:** Man's (woman's) dominion over inanimate and other living beings granted by the Creator is not absolute; it is limited by concern for the quality of life of one's neighbour, including generations to come; it requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation [ (2416) *Catechism of the Catholic Church*].

**September 30:** The Church has the right, indeed the duty, to proclaim justice on the social, national and international level, and to denounce instances of injustice, when the fundamental rights of people and their very salvation demand it [ (36) *World Synod of Bishops, 1971*].

**November 4:** This is what Yahweh asks of you: Only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God [Micah 6:8].

**December 9:** The Church would betray its own love for God and its fidelity to the gospel if it stopped being...a defender of the rights of the poor...a humaniser of every legitimate struggle to achieve a more just society...that prepares the way for the true reign of God in history [Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador].

**December 30:** Charity will never be true charity unless it takes justice into account...Let no one attempt with small gifts of charity to exempt themselves from the great duties imposed by justice [ (49) *Divini Redemptoris*, Pope Pius XI].

**q. Some examples of collaboration with others:** CCSJ takes the opportunity to work collaboratively with others, both within the Archdiocese, and in the wider community e.g.

**i. Participating in Archdiocesan events & collaborating with other Archdiocesan Commissions/Departments/Parishes/Schools/Organisations:**

- During the year members of CCSJ participated in key events organised by the Archdiocese. (See Introduction for some of the Archdiocesan events held during the year).

On 7 June our Archdiocese celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi. Since the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is closed for renovations, there were inevitably several changes to the celebrations. Some members of CCSJ attended Holy Mass which was celebrated in the Grand Stand at the Queen's Park Savannah. The celebrations began at 8.30 am. Immediately following the Mass hundreds joined the procession with the Blessed Sacrament and made their way downtown, ending in the courtyard of the Cathedral where Benediction was said.

On 1 July some CCSJ members attended *March for Jesus* – a day when hundreds of Catholics, joined by representatives from other religious organisations, walked along specified routes to the Queen's Park Savannah (QPS), Port-of-Spain. The March began at 3 different points - the Croisee,

San Juan, Morvant Junction, and Jean Pierre Complex. Along the way those walking sang hymns and prayed. Eventually the 3 groups met at the QPS, where everyone joined in prayers and worship.

CCSJ's Chair read some of the intercessory prayers on social justice during the Service. Archbishop Joseph Harris, who was in Rome at that time – to receive his Pallium from the Holy Father, left a recorded message in which he expressed his support and condemned the level of crime in the country. Inter alia, he said: “All of us are called to look at our own lives to see whether or not we are living by the values of Jesus Christ...and see the best ways the values of Jesus Christ could be passed onto the youth.” He asked that the march not be taken in a “carnivalist manner” but rather with a “spirit of reflection.”

It is important to place the March for Jesus within a wider context. As Vernon Khelawan said in Catholic News, this March called on “Catholics everywhere in the Archdiocese to profess their faith in a public manner. It (came) right after a series of cultural concerts Make a Joyful Noise and its curtain dropper Family Day celebrations, and the fantastic Corpus Christi Mass at the Queen's Park Savannah and procession through the streets of Port of Spain. Clearly, there is no lack of enthusiasm as we strive to ‘revitalise Catholic culture and identity’ in the Archdiocese.”

- 19 January: A revised RE Book was launched on Thurs 19 Jan. CCSJ's work on the Values and Virtues Formation Programme (V&VFP) for post-SEA students was acknowledged at the launch. The content of the V&VFP booklet was incorporated in the revised RE workbook. The programme now begins as students enter 5<sup>th</sup> Standard and not after they sit SEA. This will allow for more time to focus on relevant issues.
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- CCSJ is deeply appreciative of the way in which Trinity Communications Network/Living Water Community works with the Commission to achieve its goals. Not only does TCN air our monthly TV programme, Ask Why, free of charge, but Gitlin Aleong, the producer of the programme, goes the extra mile to support some of the Commission's initiatives e.g. on 21 Jan 2012, she joined CCSJ's Chair at the parish hall of Mary Immaculate Queen of the Universe RC Church, Bourg Mulatresse, and taped the Parish Youth Group as members performed skits which focused on social justice issues. TCN used the tape as a “filler” on the Ask Why programme on 24 January and have used it on other occasions.

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- 22 Jan: CCSJ's Chair was a speaker at the Family Life Commission's Convention for those in our Archdiocese who are Separated, Divorced and Widowed. The theme was: What has God got to do with me now? (see presentation on CCSJ's website).
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- 8 March: International Women's Day - CCSJ's Chair addressed students at St Joseph's Convent, St Joseph on the theme for 2012: Connecting Girls: Inspiring Futures.
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- Some of CCSJ members attended a few of the *Make a Joyful Noise* concerts. Archbishop Harris initiated this programme to carry out the mandate of Synod 2009, Second Pastoral Priority—Revitalising Catholic Culture and Identity. There were 6 Concerts across the country – including Tobago:
  - \* National Academy of the Performing Arts in Port-of-Spain - April 12.
  - \* Naparima Bowl in San Fernando - April 20.
  - \* Presentation College in Chaguanas.
  - \* Trinity College East in Trincity - May 6.
  - \* Tobago at the Signal Hill Comprehensive School - May 20.
  - \* Final Concert – 10 June in Queen's Park Savannah – commencing with Mass at which His Grace was the main Celebrant.

All the concerts were sold out. Performers (all local) donated their talents free of charge. As Vernon Khelewan wrote in Catholic News, the concerts were “primarily aimed at leading the Archdiocese's charge in the revitalisation of the varied cultural traditions of the Catholic church and at the same time serve to encourage Catholics not to be afraid to wear their spiritual identity on their chests, they were also meant as part of the church's contribution to celebrating the golden anniversary of our nation's Independence. These concerts have also succeeded in exposing the latent talent in the church, which over the years has seemed to have gone silent. The hope is that the success of the series would encourage Catholics and their various groups in the country to go ‘viral’ and come up with programmes and projects which would raise the image of the church insofar as the cultural traditions are concerned.”

- 18 June & 23 June: CCSJ organized 2 Seminars on the theme: *Building a Just Society by living our faith in the marketplace*. The first was held at Assumption Parish Centre, Maraval. Fr Garfield Rochard was the presenter. The second was held at Our Lady of Fatima RC Church Hall, Curepe. Msgr Robert Llanos was the presenter.

On 15 July CCSJ, in collaboration with the Parish of Sts. Philip and James, hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Seminar in this series at the Max Murphy Centre in Chaguanas. Fr Christopher Lumsden, Parish Priest, opened the Seminar with a prayer and Msgr Michael de Verteuil delivered the feature address. Gary Tagallie was the Facilitator and CCSJ's Chair also addressed the gathering. Attendance and participation in small group discussions and the Plenary session were good. All 3 Seminars were taped and are available as a resource to parishes.

- 19 June (Labour Day): Some members of CCSJ attended the Family Fun Sports Day – organized by the Family Life Commission's in collaboration with the Catholic Youth Commission. It was held in the grounds of Presentation College, Chaguanas.

24 June: CCSJ's Chair participated in a Businessmen Forum organized by the Companions of the Transfigured Christ community who run the John Paul II Centre on Fatherhood.

She offered 4 examples of male business professionals whom she believes strive to integrate their faith with their daily lives – living their Christian vocation in their homes/workplaces/professional careers. Her presentation included examples of how they have exercised Catholic social justice principles. She focused also on how, by being living witnesses to their faith, this impacted positively on their businesses, their personal growth and the lives of others. She also participated in a Panel Discussion. The Panel's remit was to:

“Engage businessmen to dialogue with each other and seek out ways to address issues of social injustices within their professions and businesses. Help them to identify and share experiences and possibly assist them with finding solutions where necessary in this area and in living out their Christian vocation in business.”

27 June: CCSJ's Chair presented a paper at Our Lady of Fatima RC Church Hall on the theme: *Rights and Responsibilities*. Fr Ferdinand Warner invited

her to make this presentation as part of a 4-part *Know Your Faith* Series. (See presentation on website). CCSJ's Parish Link Coordinator attended and supported with Registration and distribution of handouts and leaflets on Social Justice issues. The session was well attended and there was lively discussion afterwards.

- 2 July: March for Jesus: CCSJ's Chair participated in reading Intercessory Prayers during one of the prayer sessions on the day. The theme for this session was: Warfare – Scripture Reading: Ephesians: 6:12. Psalm: 68:1-4. \*
  - \* Songs of Warfare (We are marching in the light of God)
  - \* Prayer to St Michael the Archangel
  - \* Pulling down of Strongholds in our Nation - Agape House

On Tuesday 22 May Ms. Rhonda Maingot, Living Water Community and member of the March for Jesus Planning Committee, and CCSJ's Chair had discussed plans for the March on CCSJ's Ask Why TV programme and had encouraged the faithful to come out and support this initiative.

- 7 July: CCSJ held a 3 ½ hour-long Workshop at Assumption Parish Centre, Maraval, for members of the Catholic business community to discuss Cardinal Turkson's (President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace) handbook: *Vocation of the Business Leader: A Reflection*. This is a practical handbook for Catholic businessmen and businesswomen. The Workshop was well attended, and included some well-known leaders in the world of business in TT. Speakers included: His Excellency, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Nicola Girasoli, Fr Garfield Rochard, Fr Clyde Harvey, Fr Adolfo Bueno (Opus Dei). Senate President , Senator the Honourable Timothy Hamel-Smith, was the Moderator. (see article on CCSJ's website).
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- NB: In collaboration with Msgr Christian Pereira, CCSJ held a similar workshop at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, San Fernando in 2013.





Left to right: CCSJ’s Chair, Hon. Timothy Hamel-Smith Fr Harvey, Robert Le Hunte, Gerard Ferreira  
 Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Nicola Girasoli, Fr Rochard Photos: Raymond Syms

- 27 September 2012: CCSJ’s Chair delivered the Feature address at the Annual Regional Meeting of the Catholic Students’ Movement (CSM) on the theme: *Faith in the context of the Year of Faith*. The session was held at UWI Catholic Chaplaincy. CCSJ’s Parish Link Coordinator also attended the event which was well attended and included CSM members from across the region. Sr. Carla Thomas has succeeded Sr Monique as Regional Chaplain. (See website for presentation.) Sr. Monique’s dedication to students over the many years that she held this post is to be commended.
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- 1 October: CCSJ’s Chair led a prayer session in Tacarigua to observe International Day of Older Persons.
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- 12 October 2012: CCSJ’s Chair was a guest on TCN (Channel 10) during TCN’s annual fundraising Telethon. Each year TCN invites CCSJ’s Chair to join a panel during its Telethon to share the Commission’s perception about the value of the Network. CCSJ wishes to record its thanks to TCN for partnering with members to achieve our goals. TCN airs CCSJ’s monthly TV programme, Ask Why, free of charge and invites CCSJ to contribute to various programmes during the year.
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- 2 November: CCSJ’s Chair attended CREDI’s graduation at the Centre of Excellence. She is a Director at CREDI and its work is also important to this

Commission. Students at CREDI are encouraged to have high expectations of students and to ensure that they promote integral human development of each student. It is hoped that as more and more CREDI graduates return to their schools, the standard of education in our schools will improve. Too many of our students continue to fail in our education system .

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- 3 November: CCSJ's Chair attended CREDI's Symposium at Capital Plaza. Dr. Lennox Bernard, a Director at CREDI and a Senator, delivered the feature address which, inter alia, highlighted the many ways in which some of our Catholic schools continue to fail students.
- It is noted that a new Chair and a new CEO have been appointed to the Catholic Education Board of Management (CEBM) and that His Grace is working with them to implement recommendations made by Madam Justice Sealy and her team in the Archdiocese's attempts to improve the quality of teaching and learning in Catholic Schools in TT. Quality Assurance Systems have been agreed upon and are in the process of being implemented. The Archdiocese runs one third of the nation's Primary Schools (about 120 Primary Schools). During 2012 CCSJ members considered the 2011 AEC Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education in the Territories of the AEC. It is worth reading this document. See link below: <http://www.aecrc.org/documents/pastoralletteroncatholiceducation2011.pdf>
- 7 November: CCSJ's Chair led a Seminar at Our Lady of Fatima, Curepe, on CCSJ's/Msgr Llanos' Media Statement on the Draft Gender Policy and the implications of such a policy for TT. This was part of the parish's *Know your Faith* series. The turnout was very good and from the questions/comments from the floor, it is clear that many of those present are not au fait with the teaching of the Church on key issues relating to human sexuality. It was a good awareness-raising session which members of the planning team undertook to take forward.
- 5 December: CCSJ's Chair ran a session for Upper 6 Students at St Joseph's Convent, St Joseph, on the Church's teaching on Homosexuality. Mary Lochan, who used to be a member of CCSJ's Education Group – led by Sr Roberta early in the life of the Commission, is a teacher at St Joseph's Convent and asked me to focus on this topic. For the entire term students had been discussing issues relating to relationships, marriage and family life. Some of the questions and comments from the floor highlight the need for students in our schools to be aware of the Church's teaching on these issues.

Moral relativity is rampant and unless we instill Gospel values in our youths, they may fall prey to “subjective morality.”

**ii. Collaborating with Government Ministries, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs etc. During 2012 CCSJ’s Chair:**

- 25 Jan: attended an Education Stakeholders meeting at Crowne Plaza – organised by the Minister of Education. She took the opportunity to raise a number of social justice issues relating to the Education system in TT.
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- 8 March: represented the Commission at an International Women’s Day event hosted by The Association of Female Executives of TT – which comprises about 20 different women’s organisations. She had an opportunity to raise a number of social justice issues facing women in TT/the world.
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- 13 March: attended a meeting with Archbishop Harris, Fr Robert Christo and Mr Martin Martinez, Commissioner of Prisons, to discuss issues relating to Catholic Prison Ministry and Social Justice. Mr Martinez, who is a Catholic, was appointed early in 2012.
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- 27-28 April: attended a Regional Conference entitled: *The Caribbean Conference on Life and Family Values: Stabilizing Our Future* - organized by the World Congress of Families and the Elpis Centre <http://elpiscentre.weebly.com/the-programme.html> (see Catholic News article on website). This was an excellent Conference that provided good opportunities to network with international organisations on common issues.
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- 1 May: met with Mr McDonald Stainsby. Mr Burton Sankarali contacted CCSJ’s Chair and arranged a meeting between Mr MacDonald Stainsby and her on 1 May to discuss issues relating to media reports about plans to extract Tar Sands in La Brea. Mr. Stainsby, a Canadian activist, came to TT to support environmentalists who are concerned that if TT’s Government goes ahead with plans to extract an estimated 2 billion barrel oil reserve from tar sands at La Brea, as Kyle De Lima, Earthwise Ltd, said: “...people of south Trinidad could experience serious health and water problems.” Mr Sankarali and Mr Stainsby are part of a team of individuals protesting about the Government’s plans regarding such extraction. The Guardian newspaper, 28 April, stated that “Prime Minister Kamala Persad-Bissessar, on her return last week from the Sixth Summit of the Americas in Columbia, announced that Government was looking into the exploitation of tar sand deposits. The

PM also announced that she had spoken to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper about lending his country's expertise in this area." CCSJ's Chair undertook to support the environmentalists if it becomes necessary. Throughout 2012 and to date, there have been no further developments in relation to this issue.

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- 2 May: arranged for a Trinidadian/British author, Ms Lakshmi Persaud, to address about 100 students at Holy Faith Convent, Couva, on "The art of the Novel." She came to TT to launch her 5<sup>th</sup> Novel: *Daughters of Empire*. This was part of CCSJ's "*How I made a Difference*" initiative (see website). The session went very well and staff and students appreciated the way in which she shared her expertise so generously. CCSJ's Chair conducted an interview with her (see website), and it has been printed and circulated at the launches of Mrs Persaud's novel in TT, Canada and the USA. Part of our social justice work must be to encourage people to use their God-given talents to build the common good and to promote the dignity of the human person. Mrs Persaud's novels seek to do this.
- 
- 7 May: arranged a meeting with CCSJ's Vice-Chair; Mr Andrew Sabga, President of TT's Chamber of Industry and Commerce; and Ms Catherine Kumar – Director & CEO of the Chamber, to discuss the possibility of the Chamber partnering with CCSJ to organize a Seminar with the Business Community to discuss Business Ethics – linked to Cardinal Turkson's handbook: *Vocation of the Business Leader: A Reflection*. They agreed in principle that the Chamber would partner with CCSJ and would assist in the organization of the Seminar.

Since the Chamber would not be able to focus only on a Catholic perspective with regard to Business Ethics, it was agreed that a panel comprising business people from various faith communities, will be organized. Initially 29 June was identified as the date for the Seminar. However, the Chamber later informed CCSJ that the date would have to be postponed tentatively to 14 September.

Eventually, because the National Budget "intervened", the Chamber was unable to partner with the Commission on this initiative. CCSJ organised a Seminar for Catholic business men and business women on 7 July 2012 at Assumption Parish Centre and later on, another was organised in collaboration with Msgr Pereira and his team at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, San Fernando. (See earlier sections of this report).

- 14 May: attended a National Consultation on TT's Draft Five-year HIV/AIDS strategic plan (2012–2017) – held at Cascadia Hotel. Responding to Draft Plans/Policies and participating in such events provides CCSJ with an opportunity to share a Catholic social justice perspective on issues such as this.
- 
- 19 May: participated in CCSJ's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fundraising Dinner at Skippers Restaurant, Bayshore. Through the generosity of Corporate Sponsors, CCSJ obtained 6 door prizes. CCSJ records its thanks to the Companies that sponsored the door prizes, as well as to Mr Norman Tang, Bryden, who provided wine for the event. This allowed CCSJ to give a complementary glass of wine to diners as they arrived. Since His Grace was in Tobago that weekend, Msgr Robert Llanos opened the proceedings with a prayer and joined us for dinner. Profits from this event went towards the running cost of the Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre. Restorative justice is an essential strategy in our attempts to heal society.
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- 21 – Wed 23 May: attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNESCO Forum of Ministers of Social and Sustainable Development of the Caribbean. See Chair's article in Catholic News/CCSJ's website on 27 May. The event was organized by the Ministry of the People and Social Development of TT, under the auspices of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST). The Forum was devoted to the promotion of equality and social inclusion as means of ensuring prosperity for all.

The theme was: “Promoting Equity and Social Inclusion: Pathways to Prosperity for All”. The Forum brought together “key local and regional stakeholders, including representatives of international development agencies, with the aim to discuss development challenges and to share knowledge and best practices that are effective in creating a stronger and unified region.”

All 15 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), its 3 Associated Members and 4 Observers took part in the event. Representatives of several Latin American countries also participated.

The concept note for the conference states: “According to the premiere Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Region is considered the world's most unequal Region; largely because of the high and persistent nature of inequality which has led to the Region

falling into what has been described as an ‘inequality trap’ (NDP 2010)...discussions about social development within the region must not only treat with the inter-relationship and impact of poverty, inequality and social inclusion, but consideration must also be given to the varying levels of exclusion and groups that have been historically marginalized.”

The conference ended with the adoption of a Declaration which recommended that “the governments of the Caribbean region collaborate in order to advance the agenda for equity, social inclusion and prosperity for all” and that “policies be adopted for coherent and coordinated national and regional action”. The challenge is to move from Declaration to action.

The first UNESCO-MOST Forum of Ministers of Social and Sustainable Development of the Caribbean took place in Kingston (Jamaica), in January 2010. It focused on social development strategies for Caribbean youth in the context of the global economic crisis. That forum “articulated 15 recommendations for adoption in a coherent and coordinated national and regional action plan”. Countries were expected to report on developments in relation to the implementation of these recommendations. Sadly, the reports left much to be desired.

That first forum “articulated 15 recommendations for adoption in a coherent and coordinated national and regional action plan”. These recommendations can be accessed on CCJS’s website.

- 12–15 June: presented a Paper at (see website) and participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Penal Abolition (ICOPA). It was hosted by the Institute of International Relations, UWI and held in collaboration with the Institute of Criminal Justice and Security and the Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI. The title of the Paper, which can be accessed on CCSJ’s website, is: *Social exclusion and punishing assumptions*. ICOPA is a biennial gathering. Present at the Conference were activists, academics, journalists, practitioners, people currently or formerly imprisoned and others from across the world.
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- 16 June: was the feature speaker at the AGM of the Inter Religious Organisation (IRO). The theme was: *The role of the Family in nation-building*. ( See presentation on CCSJ’s website).
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- 5 July: participated in a meeting held at St Finbar's and organised by Sandra Caskey (Jenny Lee's sister) who works with Food for the Poor in Florida, USA. Sandra highlighted the importance of the work of the organisation. It was noted that Rhonda Maingot is a Director of the Organisation which helps 17 nations in Latin America and the Caribbean, including TT. Those gathered were told that Food for the Poor has been named "by the Chronicle of Philanthropy as the largest international relief and development organization in the nation (USA)." The organisation not only feeds the poor but provides housing, health care, education, water projects, emergency relief and micro-enterprise assistance in the Caribbean and Latin America. "More than 96 % of all donations go directly towards programmes that help those in need." See: (<http://foodforthe poor.org> ).
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- 12 July: attended the second Distinguished Jurist Lecture organised by the Judicial Education Institute (TTJEDI) at the Hall of Justice. This year's presentation was made by the Hon. Mr Justice Adrian Dudley Saunders, Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice. The theme was: The role of the Court of Appeal in Developing and Preserving an Independent and Just Society. CCSJ's presence at such events is one way to demonstrate that our Church is alive and present in the marketplace.
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- 18 July: participated in the launch of a toolkit which was developed by the commonwealth Foundation and the TT Transparency Institute (TTTI). CCSJ's Parish Link Coordinator also attended the event. The toolkit is entitled: Civil Society Accountability: Principles and Practice – A toolkit for civil society organisations in Trinidad and Tobago. It was launched at the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business. Although CCSJ follows accountability procedures established by our Archdiocese and in response to legal requirements, since the Commission is a limited liability Company, the Toolkit is still helpful. Its aim is "to identify common principles of accountability for CSOs in TT; highlight how CSOs currently demonstrated good accountability practice and also provide good practice standards and; provide practical steps that CSOs could use to realise their accountability." The Commission had been involved in a Workshop held in May 2012 when the draft Toolkit was used to identify strengths and weaknesses of CSOs present and to identify gaps the organisations needed to fill.
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- 21 September: participated, along with CCSJ's Parish Link Coordinator, in a Seminar entitled: "Strengthening the Inter-American Human Rights System" (IAHRS). It was held at the Institute of International Relations, UWI. Sadly,

it appeared that many of those gathered were supporters of the call for the Caribbean islands to “embrace” what was termed at the Seminar “international norms” – which are secular, and abandon “Christian norms.” It was noted that the Speakers included the Executive Director of the TT organisation – The Coalition Advocating for the Inclusion of Sexual Orientation (CAISO), and an Attorney-at-Law, Senior Counsel, who was introduced as an Advisor to Planned Parenthood. Such sessions reinforce the need for Catholics to live their faith in the marketplace and to share Gospel values.

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- 10 October: One of CCSJ Members represented the Commission at a Workshop organised by Amnesty International on the UN International Day against the Death Penalty. CCSJ joined with a number of other Organisations to issue a Media Release urging TT and Barbados to abolish the Mandatory Death Penalty and asking Caribbean Countries to respond positively to the UN call for a global moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to the eventual abolition of the Death Penalty in the region/world.
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- 22 October: attended a forum at the National Academy for Performing Arts on the theme: Advancing Women’s Transformational Leadership. The forum was organised by the Network of NGOs of TT for the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Australia High Commission, the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership, and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

The Commission sees it as an important aspect of its work to be present at such events, as this is one way of keeping abreast of developments in TT and of being able to share a Catholic perspective on issues. At this forum, Hon Marlene Coudray, Minister of Gender, Youth and Child Development stated that her Ministry’s Draft Policy on Gender and Development was being considered by a Cabinet appointed Committee. Ms Hazel Brown, Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women, said in her presentation after Minister Coudray, that the Policy would be “out” soon. CCSJ’s Chair expressed concern that there had been no consultation with Faith-based communities and that this was essential. At this meeting participants were encouraged to sign a petition initiated by UWI students, promoting the cause of the LGBTI community and urging the Government to complete and take forward a Gender Policy soon – and one that will include the “rights” of the LGBTI community.



CCSJ's Chair has been liaising with other Commissions within the Archdiocese, with representatives from other faith communities, and with international groups such as Alliance Defending Freedom, Human Life International etc. to seek support for the Commission's stance on some of the issues that are in the draft Gender Policy and which are contrary to the teachings of our Church.

On 20 June 2012, Msgr Robert Llanos, Vicar General, who had oversight of the Archdiocese while His Grace was abroad, approved CCSJ's Media Release entitled: *CCSJ on National Gender Policy – issues of concern*. Msgr Llanos agreed for his name to be included in the Media Release, which can be accessed on CCSJ's website. Inter alia, the Release made it clear that while the Church would welcome such a Policy – if it promotes the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person, the Church would reject any definitions or clauses that attempt to re-define the term “Gender”, legalise abortion, or open the door to same sex unions. Readers of this AGM Report are encouraged to read the Media Release in its entirety – see CCSJ's website.

- 24 October: attended the opening session of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of UNESCO's Regional Memory of the World Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean – held at NALIS (National Library). UNESCO has decided to include in their collection information on: CLR James, slavery, and indentureship. CCSJ's Chair was interviewed by some members of the media about the importance of recording our “memories” – from a social justice perspective. She focused also on the grave injustices/human's inhumanity to each other in relation to slavery and indentureship. She linked this to modern-day slavery which is rampant across the world.
- 31 October: attended the launch of the National Road Safety Campaign – organised by the Ministry of Transport. There are major social justice issues relating to road traffic injuries and deaths e.g. economic burden, poverty and social exclusion, and deficiencies in the countries' infrastructure/institutional framework – such as poor law enforcement of traffic safety regulations caused by corruption, inadequate allocation of resources, inadequate supervision of those involved in law enforcement, absence of a culture of accountability etc.
- attended a Conference in Jamaica entitled: *International Conference “Human Rights, International Law and the Family”* (7-10 Dec.). The Jamaica Coalition for a Healthy Society in association with the Lawyers'

Christian Fellowship hosted a series of events between December 8 and December 10, 2012 - to mark International Human Rights Day. The major event was the International Conference on December 8, 2012 at the Jamaica Conference Centre, Kingston. In addition to the Conference there was an event entitled "Celebrating God – the Giver of Rights" which was staged at Emancipation Park on Human Rights Day, Monday, December 10.

The conference "explored in detail the basis for new 'rights' and the threats which these 'rights' pose to the traditional, natural family." Speakers included individuals from other countries. At the end of the Conference participants were invited to sign *The Kingston Declaration*, a formal statement outlining the Judeo-Christian ideals for marriage and the natural family, which serves as the basis for a healthy society. CCSJ's Chair circulated her report on the Conference to His Grace, Msgr Llanos, members of CCSJ and other key personnel in our Archdiocese. It has been uploaded on the Commission's website.

### **iii. CCSJ's links with the media:**

CCSJ has developed positive links with the print and electronic media. The Commission is often contacted by the media for comments on topical issues and CCSJ always respond in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Some media houses continue to invite CCSJ's Chair to appear on TV and/or radio programmes to discuss topical issues as well as issues raised in the Commission's media releases. This facilitates CCSJ's plan to educate the public/faithful about justice issues and to motivate them to work together to build a just and peaceful society.

During 2012 CCSJ's Chair has been a guest on radio and TV to speak about issues relating to e.g. Poverty and social exclusion in TT, Crime and Violence in TT, the Death Penalty, the Church's position on issues raised in the draft National Gender Policy, and Educational issues. This is one way of showing that there is a visible, credible sign that Catholics are playing our part to transform society and to promote justice and peace.

Examples of CCSJ's Chair's involvement with the media are as follows:

- 3 Jan 2012: Radio 91.1 – discussion about the Church's position on the Death Penalty;
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- 7 Jan 2012: Radio 102.1 and CNMG TV – focusing again on the above;
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- 13 Feb: interviews by 2 radio stations on CCSJ's Media Release for Carnival – calling for self-control in dress and behaviour during Carnival. CCSJ takes this opportunity to congratulate *Word & Associates*, creators of the Catholic Band in TT. Its first presentation was *Genesis 1- Creation*—in 2011. In 2012 the theme of the Band was *Exodus*. Deacon Derek Walcott and his team are truly playing their part to evangelize the culture – and win some prizes on the way ;
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- 17 Jan 2012: half an hour interview with CCSJ's Chair by CTNT TV via telephone to discuss CCSJ's Media Release calling for action to curb child abuse in TT. The Release was reported in the Catholic News (Sun 22 Jan), in the Newsday and on a few radio stations. The Editorial in Catholic News (22 Jan) focused on CCSJ's Media Release also;
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- 22 Feb 2012: CNMG (First Up): The Significance of Ash Wednesday and Lent and interview with Edison Carr on Radio 730 on this same topic;
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- 26 Feb 2012: 2 hour panel discussion on IBN (Channel 8) – focusing on Approaches to Poverty Alleviation. Panellists: Prof Ahmed Habib, Durham University, UK, from the Muslim community; Rev Adrian Sieunarine, from the Presbyterian community; and CCSJ's Chair, from the Catholic community;
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- 1 March 2012: Interviewed by journalist, Golda Lee-Bruce as part of her investigation on the position of various faith communities and other individuals/groups on the issue of Homosexuality. The Catholic Church's position was shared with Ms Lee-Bruce. Extracts from the interview were shown on TV - CNC3, and published in an article in the Guardian on 23 March;
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- 24 April: Telephone interview with a Radio Host on the issue of whether or not CCSJ agreed with the Mayor of POS that TT should abolish Indian Arrival Day as a public holiday. CCSJ's Chair used the opportunity to share a Catholic perspective about building unity in diversity; recognising the strengths of the various ethnic groups that make up TT and drawing on these strengths to build the common good – rather than seeking to divide communities;
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- 19 December: 1 hour TV programme on Radio Isaac 98.1 (a religious station). The programme focused on issues arising out of the Conference

held in Jamaica in December and the implications for the Draft National Gender Policy in TT.

- 24 December (Christmas Eve): guest on CNMG, TV6, together with Rhonda Maingot, LWC - with host, Paul Richards, to speak about the real meaning of Christmas. Such opportunities enable us to share our faith with the wider community and to address justice issues.

**iv. Personal contact** with individuals/groups– by telephone, electronic media or in person. This is an important aspect of CCSJ’s work. CCSJ is available to meet with/speak to people to give advice and/or support, to act as advocates, or to empower individuals/groups to take action where necessary. For example, during the year a number of persons came to Archbishop’s House seeking financial support, advice, housing, and counselling Where CCSJ is not in a position to assist, Clive Belgrave, CCSJ’s Vice-Chair, reaches out to his contacts in SVP etc. and no one is turned away.

## **5. Trinidad and Tobago Reintegration Foundation/Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre (TTRF/APRC):**

CCSJ continues to work with the Society of St Vincent de Paul, particularly in terms of fund-raising to support the running of the APRC which is located at San Raphael and which aims to rehabilitate former prisoners. TT is in desperate need of such facilities if we are to promote restorative justice, heal society, and return former inmates to society to live as productive citizens. The facility is built on lands land owned by CCSJ. This project was conceived by CCSJ as a response to crime. Former Archbishop Edward Gilbert had turned the sod at San Raphael on 21 February 2006. CCSJ’s Chair had stated at the sod-turning ceremony: “56% recidivism rate is too high. The safety and security of our communities demand that we seek to rehabilitate offenders and reintegrate them into society so they can live productive lives”.

Fr Matthew d’Hereaux, the then-Chair of CCSJ’s Standing Committee on Restorative Justice and Post-Prison Support, had also addressed the audience of approximately 100 people. As Catholic News reported on 26 February 2006, Fr Matthew said:

“Great is a Church, great is a nation who will painstakingly reach out to the marginalised, despised and rejected. Impoverished is the Church, impoverished is

the nation who through the burden of blindness has rejected its very own. Great is the partnership between the Church and the State that pursues a justice that seeks to restore communities and encourage and facilitate reparation and restoration, the damage caused by crime.’”

“Fr d'Hereaux issued several warnings, saying if society failed to welcome ex-offenders back into the fold, organised crime would. If the State did not put its resources behind reintegration, the drug lords would. He noted that prisoners themselves were clamouring for social, financial and psychological support upon their release from prison.”

Anthony Roberts, the then-Minister of Social Development, had delivered the feature address. As Catholic News reported: “He described the APRC project as remarkable, he said it offered San Rafael and the rest of the community an opportunity to influence a group of citizens to turn from a life of crime to contributing to the development of society...”

“Roberts said research has shown that ex-offenders in Trinidad and Tobago faced several challenges that stemmed from society's non-acceptance. A large section of society ‘Believes that when a person commits a wrong, they must be locked up permanently’, he lamented.

“He said society needed to recognise that prior to committing crimes, the offenders lived within the community and, as such, society must take some responsibility for their behaviour. He added that society should consider the mitigating circumstances that might have led someone to a life of crime. It might be a result of neglect, abandonment or lack of leadership in the home, he noted.

“While keeping in step with criminal elements meant adopting sophisticated anti-crime measures, the minister raised the need for social interventions in fighting crime. Deviance in the society often stemmed from a breakdown in the moral fibre of the family, he said, and called for the rebuilding of the family unit.

He added that the Church also played a critical role in developing society and should not be passive about it. He said to the families of inmates must recognise their role in assisting them to take their place when they returned to society and not make it difficult for them since this could influence a return to criminal activity. Roberts said a national parenting programme was under development...”  
(<http://www.catholicnews-tt.net/v2005/archives/0206/sun26/front.htm>)

Archbishop Joseph Harris presided at the inauguration of the facility and visited the facility at the end of 2011.

The Commission maintains an interest in the APRC and works to ensure its success. Clive Belgrave, SVP lead officer on the project, is also CCSJ's Vice-Chair. The 2 sections of the facility on the site can accommodate 20 persons (10 in each section). Rules have been drawn up – in consultation with staff and residents. Most of the residents at the APRC are employed through the efforts of SVP. In light of this, training programmes are organised on evenings and on weekends.

During 2012 agricultural programmes were developed to enhance the skills of residents and to facilitate the sustainability of the facility. Residents plant certain vegetables there and plans are in train to promote animal husbandry on the land. It is to be noted that many of the persons who seek places at APRC had to be referred to the Drug Rehabilitation Centre at Piparo since APRC is not equipped to meet their needs. The fact that persons are leaving prison as drug addicts means that drugs are available to inmates in TT prison system. This is an issue that has been raised in the media and it is hoped that the Commissioner of Prisons will take appropriate action to deal with it.

## **6. CONCLUSION:**

In “What is Social Justice”, the writer, J.J. Ziegler reminds us that “all of the Christian faithful, according to the Code of Canon Law, are ‘obliged to promote social justice and, mindful of the precept of the Lord, to assist the poor from their own resources’ (Code of Canon Law 222 §2). Pastors of parishes are obliged ‘to foster works through which the spirit of the Gospel is promoted, even in what pertains to social justice’(Code of Canon Law 528 §1) “... social justice... is a virtue that, while not defined with crystalline precision, challenges all participants in society to seek the common good.”

This is not a pipe-dream, it can become a reality – but only if we recognise the dignity of each human person. As is stated in *Gaudium et Spes*: “A just society can become a reality only when it is based on the respect of the transcendent dignity of the human person...Since the order of things is to be subordinate to the order of persons, and not the other way around.”

If we truly embrace the mission of our Church we must continue to work selflessly in the Lord's Vineyard, recognising that while no one can do everything, everyone can do something.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and help us to discern how we can respond to the multiple cries for justice in our land and in our world. Catholics in our Archdiocese are urged to work with the Commission to turn obstacles into opportunities as we proclaim the Gospel in today's troubled world.

## **7. APPENDICES:**

### **APPENDIX I: Archbishop Harris' Independence Day Homily 2012:**

#### **50th Anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago's Independence**

Homily delivered by Archbishop Joseph Harris at the midnight Mass for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence on Friday August 31, 2012 at the Pro-Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, San Fernando.

Gospel : Matthew – 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples. “The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him’. At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, ‘Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out’. But they replied, ‘There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves’. They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. ‘Lord, Lord’, they said, ‘open the door for us’. But he replied, ‘I tell you solemnly, I do not know you’. So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour”.

#### **Homily**

At this moment 50 years ago, the Union Jack was lowered, the Red White and Black, our national flag was raised and an independent nation, Trinidad and Tobago was born. At that time

both government and opposition stood together witnessing and rejoicing in the birth of this our beloved nation. Tonight 50 years later we read that Government and Opposition are having different celebrations to mark this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

On that fateful night 50 years ago the then Archbishop of Port of Spain, Count Finbar Ryan prayed for the nation in these words. *“O God who in the eternal council of the Most Holy Trinity, didst decree the formation of the universe and, in the fullness of time, didst create the world, and from one stock didst people it, setting by thy providence the boundaries of nations-to-be, Stretch forth we beseech thee, the right Hand of the Majesty and bless this nation of Trinidad and Tobago in this moment of its birth, that it may be under thy guidance, a nation of Truth and Life; A nation of Holiness and Grace; a Nation of Justice; Love and Peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Tonight 50 years later, given the present scenario, we must ask ourselves whether or not we have lost our way, for if our leaders, government and opposition, cannot find it in themselves to put aside their differences for the sake of our nation, to give a witness of unity to this very divided land of ours on this important anniversary of independence, then something has gone terribly wrong and the dream of the fathers of the nation; *“Together we aspire, together we achieve”* has been lost. The prayer of Archbishop Ryan that we be *“a nation of Truth and Life; A nation of Holiness and Grace; a Nation of Justice; Love and Peace”* seems to have fallen on deaf ears

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1962, the then Archbishop celebrated a Pontifical High Mass of thanksgiving and in his homily said this; *“Is our independent nation likely to be a success? We have indeed, thank God, many reasons for hoping that it will be a success. We have indeed, thank God, many reasons for hoping that it will be a success, economically, socially, politically and internationally, but as you very well understand that is not the whole answer, nor indeed is it the most important part of the answer. As God says in Psalm 32; Blessed is that people whose Lord is God!” Not money, not economic success, not national and international prestige. These are not the gods that deserve worship even though in many nations it would seem that these are the only objects of worship. The seeming advantage that come from such a narrow and earthbound view of life are really a deception. The thoughts and plannings of princes perish, says the psalmist but the Counsel of God remains forever for Blessed is the people whose Lord is God.”*

Again given the present scenario; the inability of our leaders to give a witness of harmony on this very special occasion, the mass murders, the senseless violence, the disrespect and abuse of women and children, the unchecked corruption in the financial sectors; it is clear to see that the advice given by Archbishop Ryan 50 years ago has been forgotten by so many of our people. *Blessed is that people whose Lord is God!” Not money, not economic success, not national and international prestige and I may add, not lust for personal or political power. Once*



again my dear people we have to make God and God's message important in our personal and public lives, not simply by words but by our very way of life. I repeat what I said on the 19<sup>th</sup> August at the Ato Boldon stadium; *"Such wickedness is redeemed, not by our words – and we Trininis have a lot of that. It is redeemed by our LIVES, by the kind of people we are, by the ways we form our children. None of the wickedness will change until we change, especially those of us who are called to lead and talk eloquently about our passionate love for this country."*

It is all too easy for us my dear friends to dwell on the negatives which assail us. As Christians we are a people of great hope and we know that one day we will have a new heaven and a new earth. Like those of the past who dreamt and worked for independence but never saw it, we who have seen and experienced it ourselves must do whatever is necessary to ensure that our children and grandchildren experience the coming into being of the new earth. Yes my dear friends, one day there will be a Trinidad and Tobago without murders, a Trinidad and Tobago which will not be divided along ethnic and class lines and which will not be polarized along political lines, a Trinidad and Tobago where disrespect and abuse of women and children will have ended and the unchecked corruption in the financial sectors will be a thing of the past. This of course depends on the love which we have for country but we are capable, my dear friends of passionate love for country and fellow citizens. The outpouring of generosity shown by persons of all walks of life during the recent floods, tell us that we are capable of passionate love. We cannot wait for disasters to show this love however, this must be done every day of our lives. Our citizens must generate more Servols and more NGO's like HOPE. You and I dear fellow citizens are either agents of or obstacles to the coming into being of the new Trinidad & Tobago.

The Gospel reading for this our Mass of independence is one which we know very well. It tells us tonight what we must do to be agents of the new Trinidad and Tobago.

We are told that in describing the Kingdom of heaven Jesus compares it to *"Ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps."* Of course as so often happens at weddings the wedding party was late, the oil for the lamps began to run out, the wise bridesmaids who had made provision for such an eventuality had enough oil to see them through, the foolish ones did not and could not enter the wedding feast. The foolish bridesmaids could not reach their goal because of their lack of foresight. What does this mean for our nation?

And what does this mean for our church. For us to be wise and to be a people of foresight means that as church we have to be faithful to our task of promoting family life, be this the extended family, single parent family or the nuclear family. This is extremely important because families are the building blocks of our nation. Families are truly the schools of virtuous living which our country so desperately needs. We have to ensure that our education system helps our boys and girls, young women and young men, develop into well rounded individuals, confident of their gifts and talents and of their ability to help this nation to become truly what its name signifies; Unity in Diversity. We have to revitalize the sacramental life of all our members so that nourished by the Eucharist we will be truly a church which witnesses to the truth of the Gospel even in the most difficult situations. Our parishes and institutions must be places of Imagination, inclusivity and availability where Justice and Truth are not only preached but lived. This is the best gift that we can give to our nation on this its fiftieth anniversary.

To be a nation of Truth and Life; A nation of Holiness and Grace; a Nation of Justice; Love and Peace is in fact to be a nation which lives the values of the Kingdom. These values are not values reserved to Christianity. Every religion in the world values Truth, Justice, Love, and Peace. To be such a nation then we must be a nation which, while it looks after the material and social wellbeing of each and every citizen, knows that it will only be such if, as Archbishop Ryan reminded us fifty years ago “*our Lord is God*” and if we let God and his message of love be the guiding star of our lives.

Eucharist, my dear friends is always an act of thanksgiving. As 50 years ago Archbishop Ryan celebrated Eucharist in thanksgiving for the birth of the nation, tonight we celebrate in thanksgiving to God for having been protected us, in spite of our infidelities, from the consequences of the folly of so many of us; for the gifts and talents which have allowed us to navigate sometimes through turbulent, sometimes through calm seas, for the talented creative joyful people that we are, for sparing us the ravages of natural disasters. As we thank God however we recognize our faults and imperfections and we ask for forgiveness for not having loved this country of ours, and our fellow citizens with passion. As so tonight as we begin our fifty first year, I urge all citizens; “Let us love our country!” I urge our elected representatives of all Faiths, but especially those of my flock to put country before self and political affiliation. I urge you to work together to build a united country of which we can all be proud. Be persons of vision and dream big dreams because only big dreams have the power to stir men’s blood. Parents, let your homes be true schools of virtuous living. Let your children be proud of you! Young women and men; “Let no one think less of you because of your youth, on

the contrary be models for all because of your passion for country. Children, listen and learn well, you are our future. Teachers, you have the future in your hands and senior citizens; share the wisdom which you have gained over the years with us all and if your strength is failing, pray for this nation of ours.

Let us leave here tonight my dear friends re-invigorated by our Eucharistic meal determined to be agents of change in our families, places of work and recreation, in our schools, and in our nation. Hand in hand with a common vision and with common purpose, we can make this nation, the nation which God formed it to be. Trinidad and Tobago, our father land and motherland, we pledge our lives to thee. And May God today and always, abundantly bless our nation. Amen

## **APPENDIX II**

### **PASTORAL PRIORITY 3: GOAL AND RESOLUTIONS**

Following Synod 2009, the efforts of everyone in the Archdiocese are focused on implementing Synod Resolutions in order to achieve the Church's mission. Most of the Archdiocese's work centres around 3 Pastoral Priorities (PP):

**PP1:** *The New Evangelisation*, includes a focus on: evangelisation, family life, youth and Catholic education. The theme chosen was: Catholic Family. Become What you are.

**PP2:** *Revitalising Catholic Culture and Identity*, includes a focus on: catechetics, liturgy and stewardship. The theme chosen was:

**PP3:** *Regenerating the moral and spiritual values of our society*, includes a focus on: social justice and communications.

#### **GOAL for Pastoral Priority 3:**

That each Catholic, as a committed disciple of Christ, knows, lives and witnesses to the rich moral teaching of the Church and actively partners with people of goodwill towards the moral and spiritual renewal of Trinidad and Tobago.

**RESOLUTION #1a:** Be it resolved that the Archdiocese develop a comprehensive strategy to educate the People of God in values and virtuous living, based on the rich tradition of magisterial teaching and theological heritage of the Catholic moral tradition

RESOLUTION #3a: Be it resolved that each Catholic parish and school become a community celebrating the dignity of human life, from conception to natural death, affirming and developing the whole person.

RESOLUTION #3b: Be it resolved that the Archdiocese develop a comprehensive programme as it relates to pro-life (including the topical issues of abortion and contraception) given our belief in, and our celebration of, the sanctity of life.

RESOLUTION #4: Be it resolved that Catholic families, schools and parishes commit themselves to spiritual and moral renewal; and that as Church we seek ways to partner with people of good will in the building of a just and harmonious society.

RESOLUTION #5: Be it resolved that Catholic parishes, in the spirit of solidarity and stewardship, serve the community by promoting and creating opportunities, structures and programmes to achieve social justice.

RESOLUTION #6: : Be it resolved that in keeping with the Catholic position on Creation, our families, schools and parishes recognize our responsibility as stewards of Creation and express this in relevant tangible ways.

(RESOLUTION #1b: Be it resolved that the Catholic parishes and schools, as well as the Archdiocesan Departments, be responsible for the implementation of the comprehensive strategy of #1a.: NB: CCSJ IS NOT THE LEAD DEPARTMENT.

RESOLUTION #2: Be it resolved that the Archdiocese develop a comprehensive strategy for the formation of families as the domestic Church – the first moral community, for the moral and spiritual renewal of Trinidad and Tobago. (Lead Department – Family Life Commission)

RESOLUTION #7: Be it resolved that Catholics be educated and advised concerning matters of respect, reverence and modesty in dress and conduct at all times, particularly during Mass, other religious occasions and parish events.

NB: Resolution 7 will be achieved if all the above resolutions are achieved.)

The Archdiocese's website: <http://www.rcpos.org/v2.0/synod-impl.htm> lists the process since Synod 2009.

## APPENDIX III: WEBSITE STATISTICS FOR 2012

7/1/13

Site Stats - Catholic Commission for Social Justice — WordPress

- Dashboard**
- Jetpack
- Jetpack
- Omnisearch
- Site Stats
- Akismet
- Akismet Stats
- Posts**
- Media**
- Links
- Pages
- Comments
- Feedbacks
- Appearance**
- Plugins
- Users
- Tools
- Settings**
- cformsII
- Database
- 1 Flash Gallery
- Collapse menu

**Your backup folder MIGHT be visible to the public**

To correct this issue, move the .htaccess file from `wp-content/plugins/wp-dbmanager to /hermes/bosweb/web229/b2295/nf.rcsocialjusticett/public_html/2.0/wp-content/backup-db`

July 1, 2013, 12:11 pm

[« Return to Stats](#)

### Months and Years

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	
2009								3	36	12	44	538	605	1,238
2010	430	555	616	540	411	423	688	831	1,239	833	981	779	8,326	
2011	858	896	854	903	651	894	1,273	1,275	1,104	1,146	1,776	1,055	12,685	
2012	1,491	1,858	1,906	1,068	1,477	1,389	1,752	1,239	1,948	1,965	1,275	899	18,267	
2013	1,389	1,226	1,313	1,437	1,439	1,006	18						7,828	

### Average per Day

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Overall	
2009								0	1	0	1	18	20	8
2010	14	20	20	18	13	14	22	27	41	27	33	25	23	
2011	28	32	28	30	21	30	41	41	37	37	59	34	35	
2012	48	64	61	36	48	46	57	40	65	63	43	29	50	
2013	45	44	42	48	46	34	0						43	

### Recent Weeks

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total	Average	Change
<a href="#">May 20</a>	<a href="#">May 21</a>	<a href="#">May 22</a>	<a href="#">May 23</a>	<a href="#">May 24</a>	<a href="#">May 25</a>	<a href="#">May 26</a>			
35	27	23	57	36	44	29	251	36	
<a href="#">May 27</a>	<a href="#">May 28</a>	<a href="#">May 29</a>	<a href="#">May 30</a>	<a href="#">May 31</a>	<a href="#">Jun 1</a>	<a href="#">Jun 2</a>			
53	50	34	52	34	16	37	276	39	+9.96%
<a href="#">Jun 3</a>	<a href="#">Jun 4</a>	<a href="#">Jun 5</a>	<a href="#">Jun 6</a>	<a href="#">Jun 7</a>	<a href="#">Jun 8</a>	<a href="#">Jun 9</a>			
34	29	28	56	30	27	27	231	33	-16.30%
<a href="#">Jun 10</a>	<a href="#">Jun 11</a>	<a href="#">Jun 12</a>	<a href="#">Jun 13</a>	<a href="#">Jun 14</a>	<a href="#">Jun 15</a>	<a href="#">Jun 16</a>			
15	43	27	16	14	25	16	156	22	-32.47%
<a href="#">Jun 17</a>	<a href="#">Jun 18</a>	<a href="#">Jun 19</a>	<a href="#">Jun 20</a>	<a href="#">Jun 21</a>	<a href="#">Jun 22</a>	<a href="#">Jun 23</a>			
14	36	24	70	41	28	42	255	36	+63.46%
<a href="#">Jun 24</a>	<a href="#">Jun 25</a>	<a href="#">Jun 26</a>	<a href="#">Jun 27</a>	<a href="#">Jun 28</a>	<a href="#">Jun 29</a>	<a href="#">Jun 30</a>			
96	52	30	37	22	34	40	311	44	+21.96%
<a href="#">Jul 1</a>									
18							18	0	-100.00%

### About the math

If you try to verify our computations using the numbers in these tables you might get different results. The logic is explained here.

