

## **CCSJ urges citizens to commit themselves this Christmas to build a better TT/world**

The Catholic Commission for Social Justice (CCSJ) urges TT citizens to commit themselves this Christmas to build a better TT/world.

If we read the signs of the times, we will recognize that a major cause of the decline of moral and spiritual values in our country/world is as a result of the breakdown of family life, which is at crisis point. This Christmas, let us commit ourselves to strengthen and build family life so that we can improve the quality of life for all our people.

How can we say we love God when there is such a high level of disrespect within our families/communities; and when, in many ways, we may be deemed to be a lawless society? Together, let us work to foster respect for the laws of our land and to devise strategies to help individuals/groups resolve conflicts peacefully.

The Catholic Church teaches that God imprinted a moral order in the hearts and minds of humankind, but this needs to be nurtured. Our Catechism (paras. 1776 and 1777) tells us that deep within our consciences men and women discover a law which we have not laid upon ourselves but which we must obey. Its voice, ever calling us to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in our heart at the right moment. . . . For men and women have in our hearts a law inscribed by God. . . . Our conscience is our most secret core and our sanctuary. There we are alone with God whose voice echoes in our depths.

“Moral conscience, present at the heart of the person, enjoins him/her at the appropriate moment to do good and to avoid evil. It also judges particular choices, approving those that are good and denouncing those that are evil.”

CCSJ calls on all stakeholders, including families, educational institutions, faith communities, NGOs, the public and private sectors, and the Government lead our people by example. In order to build a just and peaceful society, each of us must act justly.

Justice also requires us to reach out to others as Jesus did – to the poor and needy, the lonely, the homeless and the disadvantaged and share with them the gifts that God has so generously given to us.

All that we have is ‘gift’ from God. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us celebrate the true spirit of Christmas and demonstrate our love for God by opening our hearts and minds to our brothers and sisters in need. God wants us to give. Remember the words in Luke 6:38: “Give and it will be given to you.” We have a duty to promote the dignity of each human person by standing in solidarity with him/her. Let us show that we can be a caring and compassionate people.

May the light of Christ shine forth anew in our hearts and minds as we seek to build our nation. May God heal our land and bless us all.

**For further information please ring Leela Ramdeen, Chair CCSJ on 299 8945**