



# PARISH LINK

Warm greetings and best wishes to all our readers.

We are very happy to resume the publication of the CCSJ Parish Link Newsletter and we look forward to receiving feedback and submissions from the Social Justice Parish Groups throughout the country. The objective is to share ideas among the faithful as we seek to educate, build and deepen our sense of solidarity in the national community.

In this issue, we will update you on our upcoming presentation of an Archdiocesan Environmental Policy, reflect on some key Environmental issues outlined by Pope Benedict XVI, and share tips and resources for Social Justice Parish Groups.

Enjoy reading and we look forward to hearing from you.

*Robert Persaud, CCSJ's Parish Link Co-Ordinator*



## MESSAGE FROM LEELA RAMDEEN, CHAIR CCSJ

CCSJ's work is grounded in the Biblical concept of Social Justice and Catholic Social Teaching and is challenged by the Mission of Jesus to bring about a New World Order based on truth, love, justice, peace and freedom. As we strive to work with you to implement Synod Resolutions, let us draw on the wisdom of Pope Benedict XVI. I encourage you to get together with friends and parishioners to study the Holy Father's 3rd Encyclical, *Charity in Truth*, and his Peace Message for 2010: *If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation*. These will help you to understand why we must take up our responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation. We cannot promote integral human development in isolation from the promotion of ecological justice. Let us create an empowered population so that all can be active participants in bringing about the Kingdom of God here on earth.



## SYNOD IMPLEMENTATION : ARCHDIOCESAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



CCSJ has lead responsibility for implementation of the 3rd Archdiocesan Pastoral Priority (Regenerating the Moral and Spiritual Values of our Society).

In its plan for 2010, CCSJ seeks to implement Resolution 4:1 "The Archdiocese to formulate a

policy and guidelines on environmental awareness"; and 4:4 which states : "The Archdiocese to take action to promote the church as a 'green' Church, e.g. by raising awareness of how our daily choices affect the environment; encouraging the faithful to avoid being wasteful, to re-use items where necessary, and to recycle."

CCSJ is in the final stages of producing a Policy on the environment and will present it on 23rd February at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall, Bushe Street, Curepe. The Programme will include an overview of the Policy in relation to local and global environmental challenges and a Question and Answer session. We hope that parishes and schools will send representatives to this event.

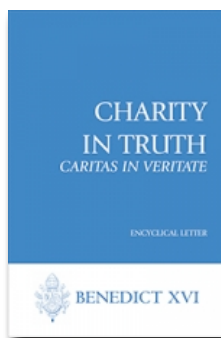
Here are some resources from the world wide web to help support parishes in implementing Social Justice Synod Resolutions.

[www.planetfriendly.net/living.html#d](http://www.planetfriendly.net/living.html#d)  
<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/climate/>

REFLECTIONS FROM  
*CHARITY IN TRUTH*

In Articles. 48 to 51 of the encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI focuses specifically on the moral dimensions of the environment. He says that: "The Church has a responsibility towards creation and she must assert this responsibility in the public sphere. In so doing, she must defend not only earth, water and air as gifts of creation that belong to everyone. She must above all protect mankind from self-destruction. There is need for what might be called a human ecology, correctly understood. The deterioration of nature is in fact closely connected to the culture that shapes human coexistence: when "human ecology" is respected within society, environmental ecology also benefits." (51)

The Pope links natural ecology and "human ecology." He urges us to care for the earth and care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25) - "it would be wrong to uphold one set of duties while trampling on the other." (51)



He says: "Today the subject of development is also closely related to the duties arising from *our relationship to the natural environment*. The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards

the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole.

When nature, including the human being, is viewed as the result of mere chance or evolutionary determinism, our sense of responsibility wanes. In nature, the believer recognizes the wonderful result of God's creative activity, which we may use responsibly to satisfy our legitimate needs, material or otherwise, while respecting the intrinsic balance of creation. If this vision is lost, we end up either considering nature an untouchable taboo or, on the contrary, abusing it. Neither attitude is consonant with the Christian vision of nature as the fruit of God's creation." (48)

Theme of Pope Benedict XVI's message for World Day of Peace 2010  
**"If You Want To Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation"**

Pope Benedict XVI's Peace Message draws upon paragraphs 48 to 51 of his Encyclical, *Charity in Truth*. The Holy Father points out that the various crises faced by the world are ultimately moral:

"Care of the environment must constitute a challenge for all humanity. It's a matter of a duty, common and universal, to respect a collective good... Our duties towards the environment flow from our duties towards the person... Humanity needs a profound cultural renewal; it needs to rediscover those values which can serve as the solid basis for building a brighter future for all. Our present crises – be they economic, food-related, environmental or social – are ultimately also moral crises, and all of them are interrelated. They require us to rethink the path which we are travelling together."

See [www.rcsocialjusticett.org](http://www.rcsocialjusticett.org) for a link to the Pope's complete message and to Leela Ramdeen's (CCSJ's Chair) article about this message.

*Be viewing our Ask Why Programme on Tuesday 26th January (FLOW channel 10) when Msgr. Jason Gordon and Fr. Joe Harris will discuss the Pope's Peace Message*

## ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING (PRACTISE THE 4 R'S)



Compost making is a great way to help care for the environment. It is an automatic way to recycle kitchen and garden waste, introduce beneficial organisms to the soil,

offer a natural alternative to chemical fertilizers and enables you to grow more by conditioning the soil.

## Requirements:

- Drum with air vents and a drainage hole
- Finely Chopped green and brown organic material
- Greens are normally fresh and high in nitrogen : Fruit and vegetable waste, coffee grounds, grass clippings, leafy cuttings, weeds and farm manure

- Browns are generally dry/dead and high in carbon : Cardboard, paper, branches and twigs, dry leaves, dead plants, sawdust and wood chips (not from chemically treated wood) and coconut shells

MIX green and brown material in the ratio of 2 Green : 1 Brown

What not to compost : Processed or cooked food, Meat, fish or dairy, Pet droppings, Human Waste, Baby Pampers, Inorganic material (styrofoam, plastic, metals)

Do not overfill the drum, leave room for air and mixing. Roll the drum everyday. Compost is ready in 3 weeks. Add sharp sand and soil for planting vegetables in containers or grow boxes. If greens are unavailable, add more manure or a handful of urea to speed up decomposition.

*Produced by Wendy Lee Yuen.*

## BUILDING A SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

Here are some guidelines to help you form/renew your Social Justice Parish Group.

1. Invite a core group of members (5 to 7) to meet. Hold regular meetings.
2. Minute the meetings so you have a record of what work is done.
3. Develop a brief mission statement and/or motto that helps to identify your group's mission. Use the following as a guide to point your group in the right direction : *"Sj is the work of every baptized person. By Sj we mean changing policies, structures, and institutions so they work on behalf of the common good."* Remember, charity work, is only part of the call to SJ.
4. Use resources provided by CCSJ and/or request a training session (see back page for contact information.)
5. Contact and work with existing SJ Groups in other parishes. For example, the Parishes of St John's, St Charles and Our Lady of Fatima meet as a cluster in the Suburban Vicariate.
6. Liaise with your Parish Implementation Teams on plans so that everyone is moving in the same direction.
7. Keep your parish community informed about your group - when it meets and the work being done. For example, share information on Parish Bulletin Boards, make announcements at Weekend Masses, and provide information to be published in the *Parish Link Newsletter*.
8. Continue to pray for and encourage each other.



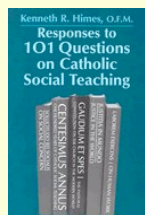
## WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUPS

"God doesn't require us to succeed, he only requires that you try."

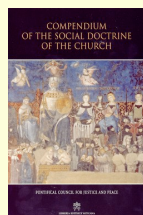
- Mother Theresa of Calcutta

**Resources available to Social Justice Groups from CCSJ, Archbishop's House**

Contact Lorna or Marge at 290-1635



Responses to 101 Questions on Catholic Social Teaching (Kenneth R Himes) **\$80**



Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church (Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace) **\$140**



**Ask Why DVD Series**

1. January 27, 2009  
Mary King and Gary Tagallie  
(Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ – Presenter)  
**FIGHTING POVERTY TO BUILD PEACE**
2. February 10, 2009  
His Grace and Msgr. Jason Gordon  
(Sr Teresa Vialva – Presenter)  
**MOVING FORWARD AFTER SYNOD**
3. March 24, 2009  
Deborah de Rosia and Fr. Joe Harris  
(Sr Teresa Vialva – Presenter)  
**POPE'S LENTEN MESSAGE for 2009**
4. April 21, 2009  
Students from Holy Faith Convent, Couva  
(Sr Teresa Vialva – Presenter)  
**GOING GREEN**
5. May 26, 2009  
Fr Dwight Merrick, Mike James, Leela Ramdeen  
(Sr Teresa Vialva – Presenter)  
**THE VOCATION TO BE CATHOLIC**

6. June 23, 2009  
Msgr. Perreira and Fr Joe Harris  
(Sr Teresa Vialva – Presenter)  
**THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST**
7. July 28, 2009  
Teresa Best, Marie Gurley  
(Leela Ramdeen – Presenter)  
**USING OUR VACATION CONSTRUCTIVELY**
8. September 22, 2009  
Sir Ellis Clarke, Prof. John Spence, Leela Ramdeen, (Sr Teresa Vialva – Presenter)  
**REFLECTIONS ON OUR JOURNEY AS A REPUBLIC**
9. October 27, 2009  
Beverly Beckles, Gail Oxley, Robert Persaud  
(Sr Teresa Vialva – Presenter)  
**PREPARATION FOR The Commonwealth Heads of Gov't. Meeting (CHOGM)**
10. November 24, 2009  
Mary King, Leela Ramdeen  
(Sr Teresa Vialva – Presenter)  
**PARTNERING FOR A MORE EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE (FOCUS ON THE CHOGM THEME)**



**Take a Bite DVD Series**

1. Msgr. Jason Gordon - Overview of Social Justice
2. Sr. Diane Jagdeo O.P.- Human Life and Dignity
3. Ms. Leela Ramdeen - Rights and Responsibilities
4. Dr. John Agard - Stewards of God's Creation
5. Fr. Malcolm Rodrigues - Global Solidarity

**CALENDAR 2010**

<p><b><u>Environmental Policy Presentation</u></b> 23 February</p> <p><b><u>Respect For Life Week</u></b> July</p>	<p><b><u>Values &amp; Virtues Seminars</u></b> Central/Suburban - May Northern - May Eastern - Sept Southern - Nov</p>
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PLEASE SEND ALL PARISH SUBMISSIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND FEEDBACK TO Robert Persaud (Parish Link Co-Ordinator) email : [charityandtruth@gmail.com](mailto:charityandtruth@gmail.com) or call 290 1644