

## CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (CCSJ) (as of 14 April, 2011)

### CCSJ's Plan of Action for 2011:

#### Calendar of events:

### January

1. Awareness-raising of **Pope Benedict XVI's Peace Message for 2011**: "Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace." Activities to include
  - 2 Jan and 9 Jan: articles in **Catholic News**
  - 25 Jan: a panel discussion on CCSJ's monthly **Ask Why TV programme** on TCN;
  - 31 Jan: main theme for **CCSJ's Newsletter** (produced free of charge and distributed widely – parishes, schools, Departments etc.
2. Advertisement on 2 and 9 Jan for Social Justice online course with Univ of Dayton (facilitated by CREDI). Recruitment, orientation session to be organized by CCSJ and commencement of online course - Module 1 on 23 Jan. CCSJ has partnered with CREDI and Dayton Univ. to run this course. 8 persons have signed up for the 2011 course.
3. Plan SJ work with Richard Smith for Vicariate Link Coordinators.
4. Plan for teachers' training for **Values and Virtues Formation Programme**: Letter to Principals and Parents etc.
5. 15 Jan: **Youth Expo**– 9-5 at Centre of Excellence: CCSJ's booth: displays and information to participants - about social justice issues.
6. 17 Jan: LR to start work on *Sacred Spaces and Social Justice Themes*.
7. 21 Jan: *1<sup>st</sup> National Conference for Environmental Management 2011* - at UWI.
8. 22 Jan: Meeting with 11 persons who completed SJ online course and 7 new students for 2011 course – at Archbishop's House – to plan their input in parishes/the Archdiocese: e.g. producing study packs on different aspects of social justice to be distributed; producing DVDs, videotapes discussing catholic social teaching themes for use in parishes; producing social justice reflections for lent.
9. 31 Jan: Workshop to discuss report of *Standing Committee on Morals and Values* and to plan the way forward re the recommendations in the report.
10. Monitor the work of Mary Care Centre throughout the year – Eternal Light Community to submit quarterly financial report to CCSJ.
11. Catholic News articles and Social Justice Quotations – weekly – throughout the year.
12. **Wellness Project: Prevention and Management of Diabetes** – with Dr Kenwyn Nicholls (to be implemented in various parishes throughout the year). The aim of the project is to: raise awareness of the faithful of issues relating to diabetes, empower people to manage their diabetes, and to promote prevention strategies for those who may be likely to get diabetes if they don't take action. Dr Nicholls' paper (*The diabetes epidemic in TT: Attacking a burdensome disease with conventional weapons*) produced for CCSJ on diabetes contains some frightening stats about the number of people with diabetes 2 in TT (143,000 plus) and those who are pre-diabetic (102,000 plus). We cannot promote social justice without promoting 'wellness'. Participation in society is a key social justice

principle. Many people can't participate in society because they are ill and spend a lot of time dealing with their illness. Integral human development includes a concern to promote wellness.

13. **VIRTUS Programme:** Protecting God's Children: CCSJ's Chair to liaise with/support Dr & Mrs Dexter and Frieda Shim (Family Life Commission) during the implementation of the VIRTUS programme in TT – throughout the year. VIRTUS incorporates “proven best practice standards for the prevention of child sexual abuse by clergy, staff, volunteers, and others who interact with children within the church environment.”
14. **Resource production** e.g. Take-a-Bite series comprising DVDs on various social justice themes, Leaflets focusing on various social justice themes, papers for circulation e.g. Catholic Family become what you are; Catholic Culture and Identity – written from a social justice perspective, Calendar for 2012 – use as a teaching tool.
15. **Throughout the year the following will form part of the work of CCSJ:** pro-life work; maintaining CCSJ's Website ([www.rcsocialjusticett.org](http://www.rcsocialjusticett.org)) ; advocacy work; attendance at relevant Conferences, meetings; collaboration with other Archdiocesan Departments, with NGOs, CBOs, FBOs; lobbying the Govt./various Govt. Ministries re justice issues; TV and radio appearances; Liaising with the Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre/T&T Reintegration Foundation re the establishment of the Rehabilitation Centre for former prisoners at San Raphael.

## February

1. Continue work on Social Justice and Sacred Spaces Project. This will be a long term project as CCSJ's Chair will work with Gitlin Aleong, TCN, to produce 'bite-sized' social justice clips that could be used on Channel 10 as fillers and in parishes to stimulate discussion on social justice issues.
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb: CCSJ's Chair to participate in Seminar on the Death Penalty – at UWI.
3. CCSJ to get involved in Death Penalty debate – nationally: via attendance at conferences and media interviews e.g. CCSJ's Chair to speak about the Death Penalty at meeting in Fyzabad on 8 Feb.
4. 6 Feb: CCSJ's Chair to speak about Social Justice issues during Mass at Los Bajos, Palo Seco.
5. 17 February: Meeting with Vicariate Link Coordinators to plan work with them.
6. 20 February: UN World Day of Social Justice: Parish Priests/Parish Administrators asked to focus on theme during homily also. Write Catholic News article. Issue media Release.
7. Mon 21 Feb: CCSJ's Seminar at Living Water Community: Dr Marjorie Thorpe, former TT Ambassador to the UN, to speak on theme: *Social Justice and individual responsibility*. Dr Marcia de Castro, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, has agreed to read the UN Secretary-General's message for the World Day of SJ.
8. Tues 22 Feb: Ask Why TV Programme: World Day of Social Justice: Promoting social justice through culture.
9. Poster: 145 ways of saying “Peace” produced free of charge. Distribute to schools, parishes etc.

10. Media release issued for Carnival - re enjoying Carnival with modesty/decency.

## March

1. Continue work on Social Justice and Sacred Spaces – visit Churches and take photos.
2. CCSJ's Chair to participate in panel debate on the Death Penalty – at St Andrew's Theological College, San Fernando. Proceedings will be aired on Heritage radio.
3. March 8: International Women's Day – CCSJ to participate in events organized by various groups (e.g. on 1 March at Hyatt and 21 March – Women as Agents of Change at Hyatt) and to write about this issue in Catholic News.
4. March 9: CCSJ's Chair to appear on CNMG (Ch. 6) to talk about Lent
5. March 17: CCSJ's Chair to speak on Heritage Radio (101.7) about Lent and about CCSJ's work.
6. March 17: CCSJ's Chair to plan, with Fr Joe and Dexter & Frieda Shim, VIRTUS training workshop for Clergy and Parish Administrators
7. March 21: CCSJ to be interviewed by Gayelle TV (Ch. 7) about International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Interview to be aired during evening news.
8. March 22: World Water Day.
9. March 22: Ask Why TV Programme – focus on Pope's Lenten Theme.
10. March 23 and 24: CCSJ's Chair to attend UNAIDS Caribbean Regional Consultation on *Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support*. She will also be a panellist discussing: *The Social and Cultural Environment: Human Rights and HIV*.
11. March 29: VIRTUS training workshop for all members of the Clergy and Parish Administrators
12. March 30: CCSJ Retreat: Msgr Jason Gordon and Fr Joe Harris to lead. His Grace to attend for part of the time.

## April

1. Apl 1 & 2: Training Workshop for teachers of SEA students in RC Primary Schools – those teachers who will implement the Values and Virtues Formation Programme.
2. Apl 5 & 6: CCSJ's Chair to attend and to present a paper on Ethics, Morals, Values and Virtues at a 2-day National Consultation on the Primary School Curriculum: organized by the Ministry of Education – at Cascadia.
3. Apl 7: World Health Day
4. Apl 8: Meeting with Richard Smith to plan social justice work – Vicariate Coordinators.
5. Apl 9: CCSJ Chair on CNMG to discuss Lent
6. Apl 15: CCSJ's Chair to attend event organized by WINAD and a Govt. Ministry (Gender Affairs) - at Nalis: Documentary : Women, Peace and Security in TT
7. Apl 20: Meeting with Msgr Jason and Vicariate Coordinators re social justice work
8. Apl 21: Pre-planning meeting – Heads of Dept.
9. Apl 26: Ask Why TV Programme: The journey to Easter
10. Plan for CCSJ's Annual Fundraising Dinner at Skippers on 18 June

## May

1. Plan for CCSJ's Annual Fundraising Dinner at Skippers on 18 June
2. May 3: World Press Freedom Day
3. May 12: Heads of Dept. Meeting, Curepe
4. May 15: International Day of Families
5. May 21: World Day for cultural diversity for dialogue and development
6. May 24: Ask Why TV programme
7. May 29: International Day of UN Peacekeepers
8. May 31: World No-Tobacco Day

## June

1. Link CCSJ's work with Pastoral Priority 2: Catholic Culture and Identity.
2. Jun 4: International Day of innocent children victims of aggression
3. Jun 5: World Environment Day
4. Commence work to convert Draft Framework towards an Archdiocesan Environmental Policy into Guidelines *for promoting environmental justice* and have it published in booklet form to be distributed to Parishes.
5. Jun 17: World Day to combat desertification and drought
6. Jun 18: CCSJ's Annual Fundraising Dinner at Skippers: for V&VFP and TTRF/APRC
7. Jun 20: World Refugee Day
8. Jun 26: International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking and International day in support of victims of torture
9. Jun 28: Ask Why TV programme: Social Justice and Catholic Culture and Identity.

## July

1. Produce CCSJ's Newsletter on Social Justice: Examples of good practice in parishes. Vicariate Coordinators to take a lead in collecting stories.
2. Sat Jul 2 (?): **Sir Ellis Clarke Memorial Lecture**: The role of Civil Society in strengthening Democracy (speaker to be confirmed)
3. Jul 11: World Population Day
4. Jul 26: Ask Why TV programme

## August

1. Aug 9: International Day of the world's indigenous people
2. Aug 12: International Youth Day

## **September**

1. Sat Sept 24 – Fri Sept 30: Respect for Life Week: NB: Catholic News Supplement to be produced and organize Morals and Values Seminar during the week. Also observe UN Year for people of African descent during that week.
2. Sept 27 Ask Why TV programme
3. CCSJ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter to be produced for 2011

## **October**

1. Oct 25: Ask Why TV programme
2. Oct 26: CCSJ's AGM

## **November**

1. Nov 22: Ask Why TV programme

## **December**

1. Produce CCSJ's Calendar for 2012
2. Dec 27: Ask Why TV Programme

- CCSJ will seek to raise awareness of the themes for the various UN International Days.