

THE CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (CCSJ)

CCSJ's Pastoral Plan for 2012

A. CCSJ's Vision and Mission remain the same.

OUR VISION

We envision a transformed national/world community where Justice, Peace and Love prevails, 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

OUR MISSION

The CCSJ 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.

Our mission is to be a fearless and unified voice to eradicate social injustice in T&T and in the world, a voice infused with Gospel values that will awaken the social conscience of all citizens and create an empowered population so that all can be active participants in bringing about the Kingdom of God here on earth. 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.

MEMBERSHIP

- Leela Ramdeen, Episcopal Delegate/Chair of CCSJ
- Clive Belgrave, Vice Chair
- Nadine Bushell, Secretary
- Kenneth Cipriani, Treasurer
- Sr Roberta O'Flaherty, member
- Eldon Warner, member

- Annette des Isles, member
- Mike James, member
- Researcher – Maria Diaz-James
- Parish Link Coordinator: Sr Christine Walcott O.P.
- Vicariate Link Coordinator with responsibility for coordinating Social Justice work within the VLC Team: Richard Smith
- Volunteers: Jo Anne Lodge, Joanne Miller, Anna Ackbarali

Chair of Standing Committee on Morals and Values: Dr Surindra Arjoon, Senior Lecturer in Ethics and Decision Sciences, University of the West Indies

SYNOD RESOLUTIONS:

Following Synod 2009, CCSJ was charged with responsibility for taking a lead to implement Pastoral Priority 3 (PP): REGENERATING THE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL VALUES OF OUR SOCIETY. The Goal of this PP and the 7 Resolutions relating to this Goal are as follows. It is to be noted that not all resolutions fall within the remit of CCSJ:

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.

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 #1b: Lead Department: Catechetical Team

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.

RESOLUTION #2: Lead Department – Family Life Commission

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.

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 #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: Res. 7 will be achieved if all the other resolutions are achieved.

KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREAS AND GOAL STATEMENTS:

Msgr Jason Gordon, now Bishop Jason Gordon, had requested that each Head of Department produce a list of Key Responsibility Areas (KRA), Goal Statements and Tasks that are linked to the area of work for which we have responsibility. Since CCSJ has lead responsibility for Synod Resolutions relating to Pastoral Priority 3, CCSJ's Chair produced an appropriate list of KRAs etc and these were submitted to Bishop Gordon. 2 of these are outlined hereunder for information.

KRA 1: To develop structures, programmes and strategies to ensure the implementation of Synod Resolutions, particularly in relation to Pastoral Priority 3 (Regenerating the Moral and Spiritual Values of our Society).

Goal Statements

- a.* 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 (Res #1a)
- b.* To facilitate each Catholic parish and school in becoming a community celebrating the **dignity of human life**, from conception to natural death, affirming and developing the whole person. (Res #3a)
- c.* To promote **pro-life** (including the topical issues of abortion, contraception and the death penalty) given our belief in, and our celebration of, the sanctity of life. (Res #3b)

- d.* To raise the awareness of our 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. (Res #4)
- e.* To raise the awareness of Catholic 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. (Res #5)
- f.* To challenge and empower Catholic parishes, in the spirit of solidarity and stewardship, to serve the community by **promoting and creating opportunities, structures and programmes to achieve social justice.** (Res #6)

KRA 2: To speak out, as part of the Catholic Church in Trinidad and Tobago, on issues relating to the Social Teachings of the Church in order to transform society and build the civilisation of love.

Goal Statements

- a. To devise and implement strategies to raise awareness of the wider community (Government, FBOs, NGOs, CBOs etc.) of the social teachings of the Catholic Church.
- b. To 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.

To facilitate implementation of CCSJ's Goals etc., we outline hereunder our Calendar of events for 2012:

January

1. Throughout the year, CCSJ will seek to link its work with Pastoral Priority 2: Revitalizing Catholic Culture and Identity: My family, my parish, my Church – exploring the links between this theme and the social teachings of the Church.
2. Members of the Commission will meet on a monthly basis throughout the year and at times when it is deemed necessary. The Chair of CCSJ is a member of the Synod Implementation Team and reports to Members on developments at the Commission's monthly meetings.

3. Awareness-raising of Pope Benedict XVI's Peace Message for 2012: Pope Benedict XVI has chosen the following theme for the celebration of the 45th World Day of Peace of January 1, 2012: "Educating Young People in Justice and Peace".

As Vatican Radio said: "The theme engages an urgent need in the world today: to listen to and enhance the important role of new generations in the realization of the common good, and in the affirmation of a just and peaceful social order where fundamental human rights can be fully expressed and realized.

In fact, there is a duty incumbent upon the present generation to prepare future ones, and creating for them the conditions that will allow these future generations to express freely and responsibly the urgency for a "new world." The Church welcomes young people and sees them as the sign of an ever promising springtime, and holds out Jesus to them as the model of love who "makes all things new" (Ap. 21,5).

Those responsible for public policy are called to work for the creation of institutions, laws and environments of life that are permeated by a transcendent humanism that offers new generations opportunities to fully realize themselves (e.g. decent job, education etc.) and to build a civilization of fraternal love directed toward a more profound awareness of truth, freedom, of love and of justice for all persons.

This, then, is the prophetic dimension of the theme chosen by the Holy Father in the path of the "pedagogy of peace" indicated by John Paul II in 1985 ("Peace and Youth Go Forward Together"), in 1979 («To Reach Peace, Teach Peace»), and in 2004 ("An Ever Timely Commitment: Teaching Peace").

Young persons must labour for justice and peace in a complex and globalized world. It is therefore necessary to establish a new "pedagogical alliance" among all those responsible for the education and formation of young people. The theme indicates an important area of concern in the teaching of Benedict XVI in his Messages for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace, beginning with the need for the truth (2006: "In Truth, Peace"), followed with the reflections on human dignity (2007: "The Human Person, the Heart of Peace"), on the human family (2008: "The Human Family, a Community of Peace"), on poverty (2009: "Fighting Poverty to Build Peace"), on the care for creation (2010: "If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation"), on religious freedom (2011: "Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace"), and now talking to the minds and beating hearts of young people: "Educating Young People in Justice and Peace."

<http://www.radiovaticana.org/en1/articolo.asp?c=488495>

- CCSJ will share information about the theme through e.g.:

- our Newsletter,
 - in our column in Catholic News, and
 - on our Ask Why TV programme on TCN in January
 - collaboration with the Youth Commission to organize a Seminar to discuss the Theme
 - on our Website which will be kept up-to-date
4. Recruit cohort for Social Justice online course with the University of Dayton (facilitated by CREDI). CCSJ will also organize an orientation session at the beginning of the course.
 5. Work with Sr Christine Walcott O.P. to review our Plan of Action in relation to her work as CCSJ's Parish Link Coordinator. Link with Richard Smith and other Vicariate Link Coordinators.
 6. Start work on Sacred Spaces Project. This will be a long term project. CCSJ's Chair will work with Gitlin Aleong, TCN, and graduates of the Social Justice online course 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.
 7. Work with 6 of the graduates of the Social Justice online course to produce bite-sized video tapes on various aspects of Social Justice – for use as fillers on TCN.
 8. 24 Jan: CCSJ's Ask Why TV Programme: Theme: Pope Benedict XVI's 2012 Peace Message.
 9. Produce weekly articles and social justice quotations for publication in Catholic News throughout the year.
 10. Continue implementation of Wellness Project: Prevention and Management of Diabetes: Work with Dr Kenwyn Nicholls to implement this Project 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, contains some frightening stats about the number of people with diabetes type 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 cannot 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.
 11. VIRTUS PROGRAMME: Protecting God's Children: CCSJ's Chair is a member of the Archdiocesan VIRTUS Planning and Implementation Committee. She is also one of the facilitators with Dr and Mrs Shim who are the Coordinators of the Programme on behalf of the Family Life Commission. She will work with them throughout the year to implement a training programme for various individuals and groups who interface with children in the Archdiocese. 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.”

12. Resource production: Further copies of the Take-a-Bite series of DVDs on various social justice themes have been produced for distribution in parishes and to schools.

13. Nine Leaflets focusing on various social justice themes are also available. CCSJ’s 2012 Calendar will be used as a teaching tool. It highlights the links between Catholic Culture and Identity and Social Justice. CCSJ will also work with graduates of the Social Justice online course with CREDI and University of Dayton to produce bite-sized video clips for use as fillers on TCN.

14. January 24: Ask Why TV Programme: Theme – Pope Benedict XVI’s Peace Message

15. **Pro-life work** will continue to be a key aspect of CCSJ’s work. We will seek to meet the challenges outlined in The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World:

Gaudium et Spes: 1, 27 (Pope Paul VI, 1965:

“The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men and women of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts... whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia or willful self-destruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society, but they do more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are supreme dishonour to the Creator.”

- CCSJ will maintain vigilance to ensure that our laws against abortion remain intact.
- CCSJ will deliver outreach programmes in parishes to promote the dignity of human life, from conception to natural death, and to promote authentic integral human development (Pope Benedict XVI, Charity in Truth).
- CCSJ will also support women who become pregnant - through the work of *Mary Care Centre*, a sanctuary 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.”

(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. Quarterly Reports are to be submitted to CCSJ’s Chair by Ms Deborah de Rosia and team running the Mary Care Centre)

- Other pro-life work will include articles and notices that will be uploaded on CCSJ’s website and published in Catholic News; working towards the abolition of the death penalty (CCSJ’s Chair has been appointed as 1 of 5 members of an organisation entitled: Great Caribbean Committee for Life. The aim of the Committee is to work with others within the region and further afield, to secure the abolition of the death penalty on our islands – See CCSJ’s Website for CCSJ Chair’s report from International Conference in Madrid, October 2011.

February

16. Produce Media release for Carnival - re enjoying Carnival with modesty/decency.
17. February 20: UN World Day of Social Justice (WDSJ): Ask Parish Priests/Parish Administrators to focus on the theme during their homilies. Write Catholic News article. Issue media Release.
18. Organise a Seminar on WDSJ Theme.
19. Prepare Lenten Newsletter (Lent begins on Ash Wed. 22 Feb).
20. Tues Feb 28: Ask Why TV Programme: Theme: Journey through Lent (referring to Pope Benedict XVI’s Lenten Message).
21. Produce Poster related to the Theme and upload relevant information on CCSJ’s Website.
22. VIRTUS Training Workshops (?)

March

23. March 8: International Women’s Day – CCSJ to participate in events organized by various groups and to write about this issue in Catholic News.
24. VIRTUS Training Workshops (?)
25. March 27: Ask Why TV Programme – focus on Pope’s Lenten Theme.
26. March 30: CCSJ Retreat

27. Quarterly Report to be submitted to CCSJ's Chair by Ms Deborah de Rosia and team running the Mary Care Centre

April

28. VIRTUS Training Workshops (?)
29. Apl 7: World Health Day
30. Apl 24: Ask Why TV Programme: The journey to Easter
31. Plan for CCSJ's Annual Fundraising Dinner at Skippers in June

May

32. VIRTUS Training Workshops (?)
33. Plan for CCSJ's Annual Fundraising Dinner at Skippers in June
34. May 22 Ask Why TV Programme
35. May 3: World Press Freedom Day
36. May 15: International Day of Families
37. May 21: World Day for cultural diversity for dialogue and development
38. May 22: Ask Why TV programme
39. May 29: International Day of UN Peacekeepers
40. May 31: World No-Tobacco Day

June

41. VIRTUS Training Workshops (?)
42. Jun4: International Day of innocent children victims of aggression
43. Jun 5: World Environment Day
44. Jun 17: World Day to combat desertification and drought
45. Jun 18: CCSJ's Annual Fundraising Dinner at Skippers: for V&VFP and TTRF/APRC

46. Jun 20: World Refugee Day
47. June 26 Ask Why TV Programme
48. Jun 26: International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking and International day in support of victims of torture
49. Quarterly Report to be submitted to CCSJ's Chair by Ms Deborah de Rosia and team running the Mary Care Centre

July

50. VIRTUS Training Workshops (?)
51. Produce CCSJ's Newsletter
52. Jul 11: World Population Day
53. July 24 Ask Why TV Programme
54. CCSJ's AGM

August

55. Aug 9: International Day of the world's indigenous people
56. Aug 12: International Youth Day

(No Ask Why TV Programme in August)

September

57. VIRTUS Training Workshops (?)
58. Sept 25 Ask Why TV Programme
- 59. CCSJ's Newsletter to be produced**
60. Quarterly Report to be submitted to CCSJ's Chair by Ms Deborah de Rosia and team running the Mary Care Centre

October

- 61. VIRTUS Training Workshops (?)
- 62. Oct 23 Ask Why TV Programme

November

- 63. November Sat. 3 – Sat 10: *Respect for Life Week*: NB: Catholic News Prayer Supplement to be produced.
- 64. VIRTUS Training Workshops (?)
- 65. Nov 27: Ask Why TV programme

December

- 66. Produce CCSJ's Calendar for 2012
- 67. No Ask Why TV Programme in December
- 68. Quarterly Report to be submitted to CCSJ's Chair by Ms Deborah de Rosia and team running the Mary Care Centre.

* Throughout the year, CCSJ will seek to raise awareness of the themes for the various UN International Days.

L. Ramdeen, Chair CCSJ

11.11.11