

THE CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (CCSJ)

HEADS OF DEPARTMENT MEETING Fri 24 June, 2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS re *CCSJ PASTORAL PLAN*

Synod Pastoral Priority 3: 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 good will towards the moral and spiritual renewal of Trinidad and Tobago.

January

1. Awareness-raising of **Pope Benedict XVI's Peace Message for 2011:** "Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace." Activities included:

- Jan 2 and Jan 9: articles in **Catholic News**

- Jan 25: a panel discussion on CCSJ's monthly **Ask Why TV programme** on TCN; Panellists: Fr Joe Harris, Deacon Mike James, Br. Noble Khan (Muslim), Pandit Bramdeo Maharaj (Hindu). Moderator: Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ

- Jan 31: **CCSJ's Newsletter** (produced free of charge and distributed widely to parishes, schools, Departments etc.). Theme: Pope Benedict XVI's World Day of Peace Message: *Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace.*"

2. Advertised in Catholic News on 2 and 9 Jan for applicants for Social Justice online course with Univ of Dayton (facilitated by CREDI). Recruitment, orientation session organized by CCSJ. Orientation session included those who had completed the course during the previous year. Module 1 commenced on 23 Jan. CCSJ has partnered with CREDI and Dayton Univ. to run this course. 8 persons signed up for the 2011 course but by June 2011 only 5 have stayed the course.

3. Planned Social Justice work with Richard Smith for Vicariate Link Coordinators.

4. Planned for teachers' training for **Values and Virtues Formation Programme:** Letter to Principals and Parents etc.

5. Jan 15: CCSJ participated in **Youth Expo**– 9-5 at Centre of Excellence: CCSJ's booth attracted many who sought information about social justice issues.

6. Jan 17: LR commenced work on *Sacred Spaces and Social Justice Themes*. CCSJ's Chair worked with Timmy, His Grace's driver, to map out all the RC Churches in TT and to determine how many can realistically be visited per day so that photographs can be taken inside and outside

each one. Letter sent to all Parish Priests and Administrators informing them of the date of the visit to their particular Church.

7. Jan 21: LR participated in the *1st National Conference for Environmental Management 2011* - at UWI. Participants included 5 Government Ministers, the private sector, technical experts, and environmental activists. It was hosted by UWI, UTT and a Coalition of NGOs. It brought together government, business interests, academia, students and NGOs to discuss issues of importance concerning the environment in Trinidad and Tobago e.g. quarrying, flooding, water pollution, air pollution, waste, biodiversity and environmental justice. Like others present, CCSJ's Chair had an opportunity to put forward ideas and solutions to support effective environmental management.

8. Jan 22: Members of CCSJ met at Archbishop's House with 11 persons who completed SJ online course in 2010 and 8 new students who had applied to do the course in 2011. The aim was 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. Jan 31: Workshop to discuss report of *Standing Committee on Morals and Values* and to plan the way forward re the recommendations made in the report. The report will be useful to CCSJ, particularly in planning for the third Pastoral Priority for which CCSJ has responsibility: Regenerating the Morals and Values of Society.

10. CCSJ to monitor the work of Mary Care Centre throughout the year – Eternal Light Community to submit quarterly financial report to CCSJ.

11. CCSJ to write weekly articles and Social Justice Quotations for Catholic News throughout the year.

12. Wellness Project: Prevention and Management of Diabetes – CCSJ to 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 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). The paper is available on CCSJ's website. 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 act as a Facilitator to 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.” CCSJ’s Chair will work with the Shims to draw up a training programme to ensure that all those in the Archdiocese who interface with children receive VIRTUS training and commit themselves to ongoing online training.

14. Resource production: CCSJ has produced certain resources to support individuals/groups/parishes e.g. Take-a-Bite series comprising 5 DVDs on various social justice themes, Leaflets focusing on various social justice themes, papers on issues such as Catholic Family become what you are; Catholic Culture and Identity – written from a social justice perspective, a Calendar for 2011: Pillars of Peace – to be used 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 (<http://resocialjusticett.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.

Ongoing activities include: Monthly CCSJ meetings, SIT meetings, HOD meetings, Ask Why.

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. Feb 2: CCSJ’s Chair participated in a Seminar on the Death Penalty – at UWI. Speakers included Attorneys-at-Law, Israel Khan SC, and Vernon de Lima, and Mr Douglas Mendes SC; and Ms Verna St. Rose-Greaves, Social Worker.

3. CCSJ participated in the Death Penalty debate – nationally: via attendance at conferences and media interviews e.g. CCSJ’s Chair spoke about the Death Penalty at a meeting in Fyzabad on 8 Feb.

4. Feb 6: At the invitation of the Parish Priest, CCSJ’s Chair addressed the Congregation during Mass at Los Bajos, Palo Seco, to raise their awareness about the Social Doctrine of the Church and to share practical examples of how they can promote social justice in their community/TT.

5. CCSJ’s Chair’s participated in Synod Implementation Team Meeting.

6. February 17: CCSJ’s Chair met with Vicariate Link Coordinators to plan social justice work with them.

7. February 20: UN World Day of Social Justice: CCSJ asked Parish Priests/Parish Administrators to focus on the theme during homilies also. CCSJ's Catholic News article also focused on this issue and the Commission issued a media Release to raise the public's awareness of the occasion.

8. Mon 21 Feb: CCSJ organized a Seminar at Living Water Community on the theme: *Social Justice and individual responsibility*. Dr Marjorie Thorpe, former TT Ambassador to the UN, was the feature speaker. Dr Marcia de Castro, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, read the UN Secretary-General's message for the World Day of SJ.

9. Tues 22 Feb: Ask Why TV Programme this month focused on *World Day of Social Justice: Promoting social justice through culture*. Panellists: Hollis Liverpool a.k.a Chalkdust, and The Pierrot Grenade, Felix Edinborough. Moderator: Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ

10. CCSJ arranged for the production of a Poster: *145 ways of saying "Peace"*. It was produced free of charge and distributed to schools, parishes etc. as part of World Day of Social Justice initiatives.

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

March

1. CCSJ continues work on Social Justice and Sacred Spaces. CCSJ approved the appointment of a photographer who used her own vehicle and equipment and drove CCSJ's Chair and Timmy, His Grace's driver who acted as navigator, to visit all Churches in Trinidad during a 14-day period to take photos of our Churches – inside and outside. Hundreds of photos have been taken. The photographer also spent time 'cropping' the photos etc. These are all now on DVDs ready for use by CCSJ in preparing 5-minute DVDs on social justice issues. Photos of RC Churches in Tobago were taken by a member of staff at The Chancery.

2. March 1: Media Release: CCSJ makes plea for modesty in dress and good behaviour during Carnival

3. March 2: Media Release: 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day

4. March 2: CCSJ's Chair and Fr David Khan participated in an Inter-Faith panel debate on the Death Penalty - at St Andrew's Theological College, San Fernando. Proceedings were aired on Heritage radio (101.7).

5. March 8: International Women's Day – CCSJ participated in events organized by various groups (e.g. on 1 March at Hyatt and 21 March – Women as Agents of Change at Hyatt) and wrote about this issue in Catholic News.

6. March 9: CCSJ's Chair appeared on CNMG (Ch. 6) to talk about Lent.
5. March 17: CCSJ's Chair spoke on Heritage Radio (101.7) about Lent and about CCSJ's work. Over 1 hour was allocated to the Commission to share perspectives on various issues.
7. March 17: CCSJ's Chair, Fr Joe Harris, Dexter & Frieda Shim, planned VIRTUS training workshop for Clergy and Parish Administrators.
8. March 21: CCSJ Chair was interviewed by Gayelle TV (Ch. 7) about International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The interview was aired during evening news.
9. March 22: CCSJ's Ask Why TV Programme focused on the Pope's Lenten Theme for 2011: "*You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him.*" (cf. Col 2: 12)
Panellists: Fr Clyde Harvey, Mrs Thora Best and Nadine Bushell. Moderator: Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ
10. March 23 and 24: CCSJ's Chair attended the UNAIDS Caribbean Regional Consultation on *Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support*. She was also a panellist discussing: *The Social and Cultural Environment: Human Rights and HIV*. Her paper is available on CCSJ's Website.
11. March 29: CCSJ's Chair helped to facilitate the VIRTUS training workshop for all members of the Clergy and Parish Administrators. Dr and Mrs Shim, Family Life Commission, are the Coordinators of the Programme.
12. March 30: CCSJ Retreat: Msgr Jason Gordon and Fr Joe Harris led CCSJ's members on a 1 day Retreat. His Grace attended for part of the time. Members truly appreciated the wise words of His Grace, Msgr Jason and Fr Joe. CCSJ members must develop their own spirituality if we are to develop a spirituality of Justice among citizens in TT.
13. Production and distribution of CCSJ's Newsletter: Pope Benedict XVI's Lenten Message: "*You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him.*" (cf. Col 2: 12).

April

1. Apl 1 & 2: CCSJ ran a Training Workshop for teachers of SEA students in RC Primary Schools who will implement the curriculum for the Values and Virtues Formation Programme in June and July. Speakers included His Grace, Minister Clifton de Couteau, Ministry of Education, Msgr Jason Gordon, Ramona Khan and Leela Ramdeen. Mrs Thora Best, Principal of Rose Hill RC School, led a spirited panel-discussion on good practice.

2. Apl 5 & 6: CCSJ's Chair presented 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 Hotel. The paper is available on CCSJ's website.
3. Apl 8: CCSJ's Chair met with Richard Smith to plan social justice work to be implemented by Vicariate Coordinators.
4. Apl 9: CCSJ Chair appeared on CNMG TV channel to discuss issues relating to Lent.
5. Apl 15: CCSJ's Chair attended an event organized by the Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD) and the Ministry of Planning, Economic and Social Restructuring and Gender Affairs at Nalis – the National Library. Participants viewed and discussed issues arising out of a Documentary entitled: Women, Peace and Security in TT. Each woman interviewed on the Documentary have lost a son, father, brother, husband, boyfriend etc. through gang violence.
6. Apl 19: CCSJ's Chair's participated in Synod Implementation Team Meeting.
7. Apl 20: CCSJ's Chair attended a meeting with Msgr Jason and Vicariate Coordinators to discuss the aspect of their job description that focuses on social justice.
8. Apl 19: CCSJ's Ask Why TV Programme focused on *The journey to Easter*. Panellists: Mr Gerard Pemberton, retired Director of the Development Finance Ltd; Msgr Jason Gordon, Vicar for Administration Moderator: Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ.
9. Apl 21: CCSJ's Chair attended a pre-planning meeting with Heads of Departments – Chaired by Msgr Jason.
10. CCSJ planned for the Commission's Annual Fundraising Dinner at Skippers on 18 June.

May

1. Planning for CCSJ's Annual Fundraising Dinner at Skippers on 18 June continued.
2. May 12: CCSJ participated in the Heads of Dept. Meeting at Curepe Parish Hall.
3. May 24: CCSJ's Ask Why TV programme focused on the **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**. Panellist: Felipe Noguera. Moderator: Sr Theresa Vialva
4. CCSJ's Chair represented the Archdiocese at a Congress in Rome, organised by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (PCJP), to mark the 50th Anniversary of Pope John XXIII's encyclical, *Mater et Magistra* (Mother and Teacher – on Christianity and social progress). The theme of the Congress was: **Justice and Globalisation: From *Mater et Magistra* to *Caritas in Veritate***. There were 233 participants and officials from around the world. Since there were more than 35 sessions, there is much information to distill. The programme and all papers are available

on the following website specially created for the Congress:

<http://dottrinasocialelchiesa.net/> (click on 'Documenti' along the top). 23 of the papers are in English. See: <http://rcsocialjusticett.org/2.0/2011/06/02/congress-in-rome/> and

<http://rcsocialjusticett.org/2.0/2011/06/10/using-the-gifts-of-the-spirit/#more-1851> for 2 articles by CCSJ's Chair on the Congress (also published in Catholic News).

5. May 31: 'End' of 1st Pastoral Priority: The New Evangelization: Catholic Family Become what you are. (NB: Since all 3 PPs are interlinked, they will all continue to inform each other).

6. During May CCSJ started a "Making a Difference" webpage encouraging visitors to our website to write to us with stories about how they have made a difference. As a stimulus, CCSJ has uploaded a Poem by a 10 year old girl, Cherisse Hawkins, about how she made a difference in the life of a homeless girl. The aim is to awaken the consciences of people to "act" justly.

June

1. June 1: Commencement of 2nd Pastoral Priority in Archdiocese: Revitalizing Catholic Culture and Identity: My Church, My Parish, My Family (and continuation of link with 1st Pastoral Priority and with 3rd Pastoral Priority).

2. June 1: CCSJ's Chair addressed parishioners in the Suburban Vicariate who attended a Social Justice Seminar organized by Sr Gail Jagroop, Vicariate Coordinator.

3. June 2: CCSJ's Chair's participated in Synod Implementation Team Meeting.

4. June 2: CCSJ's Chair addressed parishioners in the Central Vicariate who attended a Social Justice Seminar organized by Sr Gail Jagroop, Vicariate Coordinator.

5. June 6: CCSJ's Chair attended a Heads of Clusters meeting with Msgr Jason and others.

6. June 7: CCSJ's Chair and Dr Kenwyn Nicholls ran a session at Santa Rosa RC Church Hall on Prevention and Management of Diabetes. Members of the Family Life Unit in the Parish supported this initiative.

7. Jun 18: CCSJ's Annual Fundraising Dinner at Skippers: for V&VFP and TTRF/APRC

8. June 16: CCSJ's Chair attended a *Civil Society Consultation for Universal Periodic Review* (UPR), organized by the Attorney-General in preparation for TT's initial National Report under the UPR which is designed to review the human rights record of every country. TT's first UPR Report is due in July, 2011. CCSJ took the opportunity to present a paper to the gathering (see CCSJ's paper on CCSJ's Website).

9. June 21-22: CCSJ's Chair to attend UNAIDS Regional Consultation on Positive Health, Dignity and Prevention in the Caribbean. The Consultation is being held in the Dominican Republic and UNAIDS is meeting all costs.
10. June 24: Heads of Department Meeting, Curepe Parish Hall.
11. June 27: CCSJ's Chair's to participate in Synod Implementation Team Meeting.
12. June 28: CCSJ's Ask Why TV programme will focus on *Catholics making a difference*. Panellists: Fr Clyde Harvey, Andrea Joseph-Hutchinson. Moderator: Miss Leela Ramdeen.
13. June 28: CCSJ's Chair and Dr and Mrs Shim will run the VIRTUS Training Programme for Heads of Department at Curepe Parish Hall.

July

1. Production of CCSJ's Newsletter on Social Justice on theme: Making a Difference - Examples of good practice in parishes. Vicariate Coordinators to take a lead in collecting stories.
2. July 26: Ask Why TV programme
3. July 27: CCSJ's AGM

August

1. Aug 12: CCSJ to engage in an activity to observe International Youth Day: tbd
2. Ask Why TV Programme

September

1. Sept 27 Ask Why TV programme
2. Start work on CCSJ's 4th Newsletter for 2011

October

1. Oct 25: Ask Why TV programme
2. Prepare for Respect for Life Week

November

1. Nov 12-19: Respect for Life Week (RFLW): NB: Catholic News Supplement to be produced to support work in parishes and homes. As part of RFLW, CCSJ will host the Sir Ellis Clarke Conference (in memory of Sir Ellis) to mark the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Synod of Bishops' 1971 document: *Justice in the World*. Archbishop Edward J. Gilbert C.Ss.R, and International Speaker, Mr Victor Scheffers, General Secretary, Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, Netherlands, will be our feature speakers on the draft Theme: "*How relevant is the document, Justice in the World, in the 21st Century?*" Parishes, schools, Departments, Ecclesial Communities etc. will be encouraged to organise relevant activities during RFLW. Other events may include:

- Interfaith Service
- CCSJ's Ask Why TV programme on Channel 10
- Seminar on Morals and Values
- Panel Discussion on Life issues: Threats to life and opportunities to promote integral human development
- Parish priests/Administrators will be asked to focus on RFL during Mass and to encourage youths to lead holy hour in parishes before Mass on Sat 12 and 19 Nov.
- Vigil at Emmanuel Community - focusing on Pro-Life issues

2. Nov 22: Ask Why TV programme

December

1. Produce CCSJ's Calendar for 2012

2. Dec 27: Ask Why TV Programme