

Issue 1 – May, 2011

Director of Schools, Mr Ray Collins leads by example, giving ALL HE HAS in support of Project Compassion.



Welcome to the first edition of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Caritas Newsletter, **CARITAS ABLAZE!**

During Term 1, the Diocesan Community celebrated the work and mission of Caritas Australia with three Diocesan events -

- ❖ **2011 Launch of Project Compassion**
Tuesday 8th March, hosted by St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton - page 1-3
- ❖ **Diocesan Caritas Dinner** Friday 18th March
Victor Peter's Suite, Hamilton - page 4
- ❖ **Caritas Donors' Thank you Morning Tea**
Thursday 31st March, hosted by St Patrick's, Swansea – page 4
- ❖ **School contributions** - page 5



Students from St Joseph's, Merewether and Holy Family, Mereweather Beach (L to R at back)
Evie Lawrence
Thomas Howlett
Maeve McCallum
James Purkiss
Connor McKinnon
Eli McCulloch

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's major annual fundraising and education campaign. Since its beginning in 1966 it has grown into the largest international aid and development fundraising campaign in Australia.

Partner with us to make a difference!

We're all in this together!



THE PRAYER OF OSCAR ROMERO

(NARRATED BY BISHOP MICHAEL AND CATHERINE AT THE PC LAUNCH)

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation
in realising that. This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well. It may be incomplete,
but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.
Amen.

ARCHBISHOP ROMERO dared to speak out for his people.
Romero inspires us to *make a difference by partnering together!*

How will you BE the difference?



BE MORE CHALLENGE!

Take a pebble and think of
how we are all connected.

Place it in your wallet.
Remember each time
you spend, others have
nothing to spare.

Place it in your shoe.
Remember that you are
on a spiritual journey.
Walking the journey of justice is often
uncomfortable and challenging.

Place it in your pocket.
Remember that wherever you travel
you can be the change in your world.

**Aspire not to have more,
but to be more!**



Bishop Michael with Caritas Lenten Visitor and Launch Guest Speaker Nguyet Dinh from Vietnam.

During the past 10 years, Nguyet has been an activist for the inclusive education movement facilitating local partners, beneficiaries and local professionals in improving health care and educational services for children with disabilities. In Vietnam, people with disabilities are cared for at home and isolated from the rest of the community. However with the support of Caritas Australia people with disabilities come together to learn skills and support one another, resulting in improved self esteem and more confidence. Through education and working together, lives are changing and people are able to live a dignified life within their communities.

Be challenged by poverty and injustice, take action!



St Pius X, Adamstown
 Ministry Coordinator,
 Mrs Simone Kelly,
 Nicholas Daskalovski,
 Lily Ryan, Rachael
 Scott, Lachlan Young
 and Catherine Stace



2011 PROJECT COMPASSION LAUNCH



On Tuesday 8 March, also known as Shrove Tuesday, we attended the 2011 Project Compassion Launch with Mrs Kelly hosted by St Francis Xavier's College. Throughout the liturgy we were empowered by the commitment and passion towards solving the issue of global poverty. Special guests Bishop Michael Malone, the new Diocesan Director for Caritas, Catherine Stace and Nguyet Dinh, a Caritas representative from Vietnam, as well as many primary and secondary school leaders, were present.

We were engaged in the ideas of international aid and the development of fundraising, thanks to Project Compassion and Caritas Australia throughout the many years of their hard work changing the lives of the disadvantaged. We were inspired by the theme of "partnering together to make a difference" and the notion that we are all in this together. The drama and musical performances by students of St Francis Xavier's College portrayed the idea of building a better world for all. Thank you to Mrs Paton and her team for organising such an inspiring and personal challenging liturgical experience!

Morning tea was served at the end of the launch and we were given the opportunity to converse with some of the most inspirational individuals in our diocese today as well as treat ourselves to light refreshments and banana bread. \$217.85 was raised for Project Compassion as guests left the celebration.

We left with our very own Caritas Australia 2011 Project Compassion Launch donation box, candle and a pebble which represented the difficulties people face in overcoming challenges in relation to the fight against world hunger in poverty stricken countries. Walking away, we felt like we could make a difference in the world to help others if we partnered together.

By Lily Ryan and Lachlan Young (St Pius X, Adamstown)





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Photos in this publication are courtesy of Tonic Photography. Toni Curley attended all three Diocesan events, capturing moments of Project Compassion 2011.



Diocesan Caritas Dinner



Donated Auction Item by Toni Curley of Tonic Photography – a beautiful framed photo of Russell Falls, Tasmania

With love and compassion, Fr Silas Bogati, Executive Director of Caritas Nepal, has dedicated his life to reaching out to the poorest of the poor, in a country of 28 million with only 7 000 Catholics! Caritas Australia works with communities who experience poverty, injustice, hunger and oppression regardless of their religious, political or cultural beliefs.

Fr Silas, a Caritas Lenten Visitor to Australia, visited our Diocese from 18-20 March. Hosted by the Banister family of Rutherford, he shared his story with the school community of St Paul's, Rutherford, con-celebrated Mass at Largs and Campbell's Hill and was the guest speaker at the Diocesan Caritas Dinner at Hamilton on 18 March.

Thank you to Rebecca and Bart from the Cathedral Function Centre, for the friendly hospitality and delicious 'Fish Friday' themed meals.

\$1975 was raised on the evening, with a significant proportion of the funds generated through an Auction of a photograph, generously donated by Toni Curley. Thank you to all guests who entered into the spirit of the occasion ensuring an entertaining and momentous evening was enjoyed by all!

Donors' Thank you Morning Tea

Individuals from around the Diocese gathered together at St Patrick's, Swansea on 31st March. The Morning Tea was organised to honour and thank donors from around the diocese who provide ongoing support and generosity for the work and mission of Caritas Australia. Hospitality and home-made delicious delights were provided by St Patrick's Community. The social justice reflection inspired by recent natural disasters, created by Mrs Nicki Falconer and performed by students in Years 5 and 6, was thought provoking and simply sensational! It was truly 'goose bump' material! Julia Minors (Yr5), Izaak Stace (Yr3) and Charlotte Coombs (Yr2) embraced the spirit of giving of their talents to assist others by creating and donating their artworks for auction. Great excitement was generated, as Auctioneer Mr Rufo fetched fabulous prices for each item. Bishop Michael was most excited with his auction win of Julia's butterfly! Through the auction, raffle and general donations, \$612.95 was raised for Project Compassion. By giving of ourselves and partnering together, we've certainly made a difference!



Bishop Michael enjoying a cuppa with St Mary's, Gateshead Yr 7 students Joseph Fry, Emma Gearing and Ben Hole



Cheryl, Rhonda, Zofia, Noelene and Kylie preparing a banquet of delicious delights



Donated art work by St Patrick's students: Julia Minors (Yr 5), Izaak Stace (Yr 3) and Charlotte Coombs (Yr 2)



Student leaders from SFX, Belmont marvel at the giant PC box

When you give, you give of yourself – sharing your gifts and talents with others is the true essence of generosity!





Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT
COMPASSION
2011



DONATIONS CAN BE MADE:

- Online at www.caritas.org.au/source/Donation
- By sending a cheque to [Caritas Australia, 24-32 O’Riordan Street, Alexandria NSW 2015](#) or [Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney NSW 2001](#)
- By telephone, please call our toll free number [1800 024 413](tel:1800024413)

Please include your donor number, full name, address, parish and diocese.

For further information, please contact **Catherine Stace, Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Director for Caritas** on 0409 481760 or email: catherine.stace@mn.catholic.org.au



St Mary’s High School, Gateshead Community Day



SFX, Belmont



**St Patrick’s, Swansea
Feast Day**



As Director for Caritas, I have been blessed to experience the abundance of generosity and support for Caritas Australia in this diocese. My sincere thanks go to each and every individual who contributed their gifts and talents, ensuring the success of the events highlighted in this newsletter and to the 2011 Project Compassion Appeal.

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of CARITAS ABLAZE, please send your photos, stories, fundraising ideas etc. to: catherine.stace@mn.catholic.org.au

Catherine Stace

