



DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

CHANCERY OFFICE

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Friday 6 August, 2010

Dear Parish/School Member

Social Justice Network – Invitation to your Parish/School, Pastoral Council, Social Justice Group or Contact

We are seeking a contact in each parish or school to join the Social Justice Network. Participation will not place any great obligation on that contact. The role can be as simple as a communication link to whatever level of participation that the person is comfortable with.

What is Social Justice?

Social justice means different things to different people. It is a calling of our faith, a challenge set for us by Jesus repeatedly in Bible. It is timeless and yet involves the biggest challenges of our times. It covers equity and justice for the poor, be it the economic, spiritual or situational poor. It covers the environment, the rights of individuals, freedom from violence, war, exploitation etc. It is not about the political views of one party or another, one economic system or another. In the life of the Church it is one of the important ways that we as Christians meet our obligations. It fits hand in glove with many of the other good works of the Church and individuals from St Vincent de Paul, Caritas, missions etc.

The immediate objective would be to better inform people about the Australian Bishop's Social Justice Sunday Statement to be released on 26 September. Contacts will be invited to a formation event following this. We will be working together to:-

- Encourage and enable more people to do more for social justice;
- Better support all those people who fight for social justice who would appreciate a wider audience and involvement from fellow Catholics;
- To be better informed as what we as a Diocese and as individual members or groups of the Church are doing to stand up for social justice.

Can you advise the name and contact details of your representative to Teresa Brierley on (02) 4979 1117, e-mail: teresa.brierley@mn.catholic.org.au by 15 August.

Yours sincerely

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Ian Ross-Gowan
Chair – Social Justice Council
Diocese Maitland-Newcastle