

CCSJ PASTORAL PLAN: Synod Pastoral Priority 3: Regenerating the moral and spiritual values of our society (June 24, 2011)

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.

| Priority | Action/Task | Start date | Compl. date | Status update |
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| 2 | Res 1a:2 Conduct an analysis of factors which have contributed to the decline of values in the society a. Production of baseline study. b. Determine what programmes have worked in society. Determine what more can be done in terms of programmes to address social problems. | Oct 19 2009 | 2012 | CCSJ's Standing Committee on Morals and Values , Chaired by Prof. Surendra Arjoon, Senior Lecturer in Ethics and Decision Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI, has produced a 40 page Report which will be used to support CCSJ as it prepares to take the lead in 2012/2013 on the 3 rd Pastoral Priority. The report contains data collected by his BA and MA students. |
| 3. | Res 1a:3 Develop a comprehensive programme on values, virtues and social justice for dissemination to parishes using a "Train the Trainer" approach. Post SEA Formation being one aspect of the comprehensive programme | Jan 2 2010 | Dec 2011 | Values & Virtues Formation Programme in RC Primary Schools: On April 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. The programme is currently being implemented and 10 Monitors are monitoring its implementation. Next year this programme will be incorporated within the Catechetical team's remit. CCSJ will retain overall responsibility for the Programme via the Archdiocesan Committee that oversees the Programme. |
| 4 | Res 1a:4 Collaborate with other Christian denominations and faith communities in authentic and meaningful dialogue to foster the development of moral and spiritual values and in the promotion of social justice in society. | Dec 8 2009 | Dec 2011 | CCSJ continues to work with others to implement this Resolution. Such work also includes work with Government Ministries and secular society. See attached Calendar of Events for activities in which CCSJ has been involved since January 2011 e.g. debates/conferences on Capital Punishment, HIV/AIDS, protection of children from sexual abuse, human trafficking etc. |

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| 5 | <p>Res 1a:5 Use the media to promote the values of the Catholic Church</p> | Ongoing | | <p>Action in this area includes weekly articles and social justice quotations in Catholic News and on CCSJ's Website; appearances on radio and TV focusing on a variety of issues such as the death penalty, abortion, poverty and social exclusion; CCSJ's monthly TV programme on TCN: Ask Why; Media Releases e.g. Mar. 1: CCSJ makes plea for modesty in dress and good behaviour during Carnival, March 2: 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day; CCSJ's publications: Take-a-Bite series, leaflets, booklets, posters such as "145 ways to say Peace" and CCSJ's 2011 Calendar: "Pillars of Peace"; Newsletter: 2 produced this year: Pope's Peace Message 2011 and Pope's Lenten Message. The 3rd Newsletter on "Catholics Making a Difference" is at the Printers. It highlights good social justice practices in parishes.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Res 1a:6 Address social justice issues such as those outlined in the Vatican II document - The Church in the Modern World ("...whatsoever is opposed to life itself..." (n 27, Vatican II document. The Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)). NB: This is the theological foundation for implementation of Resolution #3b re pro-life work. And see Res #5:8 Review/develop outreach programmes to address social justice issues such as those outlined in The Church in the Modern World – work in progress – responding to local, national and international issues: works of mercy and works of social action.</p> | Dec 8 2009 | Dec 2011 | <p>CCSJ continues to address social justice issues through: Seminars, Conferences, Workshops, use of the media, publications such as the Take-a-Bite series, planning for the Respect for Life week in November 2011, and other pro-life activities. This work also involves educating the faithful about key encyclicals and other teachings of the Magisterium as well as highlighting justice issues arising from our Scriptures. Further material on each of the 12 key social justice themes is being developed as part of the 'Sacred Spaces Project.' COLLABORATIVE WORK We also collaborate with other Archdiocesan Departments and Ecclesial Communities e.g. participation in Youth Expo, work with TCN, working with Eternal Light Community which Community is responsible to CCSJ for the day to day running of the Mary Care Centre. We also work with other NGOs, CBOs and FBOs e.g. CCSJ's Chair presented a paper at the UNAIDS Regional Consultation in March and UNAIDS met all costs for her to participate in a further 2-day Consultation in the Dominican Republic on 21-22 June. See attached Calendar of Events for other activities for 2011. CCSJ's Chair represented the Archdiocese at a Congress in Rome in May 2011 to mark the 50th Anniversary of Mater et Magistra. See CCSJ's Website for all papers (23 are in English).</p> |

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| 11 | Res 1b:7 Address parish and community issues with relevant outreach programmes | Oct 19 2009 | Dec 2011 | One aspect of the work of the Vicariate Coordinators is to promote social justice. In order to facilitate this work, CCSJ has recently appointed Sr Christine Walcott OP as Parish Link Coordinator. She will address this Resolution as part of her strategic plan. She takes up her post on 1 Sept 2011. |
| 12 | 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. Res 3a:1 The Archdiocese to dedicate a week every year to the theme of 'respect for life' (see Res #1a:6) | | | This work is ongoing. A key strategy which CCSJ will continue to use is Respect for Life Week (RFLW) which will take place from Nov 12-19 2011. NB: Catholic News Supplement will be produced to support parishes as they celebrate life. NB: On 12 Nov., as part of RFLW, CCSJ will host the Sir Ellis Clarke Conference (in memory of Sir Ellis) to mark the occasion of the 40 th Anniversary of the Synod of Bishops' 1971 document: <i>Justice in the World</i> . 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: " <i>How relevant is the document, Justice in the World, in the 21st Century?</i> " Parishes, schools, Departments, Ecclesial Communities etc. will be encouraged to organise relevant activities during RFLW. See further details in attached Plan of Action. In a spirit of solidarity, we will also seeking to partner with the Inter-Religious Organisation in this initiative. We hope that all Departments, parishes, families and schools will join us in this celebration of life and in committing to counter the threats to life at all stages – from conception to natural death; to promote and foster a genuine respect for human life - increase people's respect and understanding of the innate, inviolable dignity and value of all human life from conception until natural death. |

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| 14 | Res 3a:3 Each parish to conscientiously, honestly assess how it respects life, in terms of facilities for and service to persons from all walks of life and implement systems accordingly | Linked to item 12, Res 3a:1 | Dec 2011 | CCSJ's Parish Link Coordinator and Vicariate Coordinators will address this Resolution in their strategic plan. Parishes will be encouraged to focus on this issue, particularly during Respect for Life Week. |
| 15 | RESOLUTION #3b: Be it resolved that the Archdiocese develops 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. Res 3b:1The Archdiocese to promote the teaching of the Catholic Church's position on life issues from conception to natural death and to be proactive in promoting a culture of life in T&T | Dec 7 2009 | Dec 2011 | CCSJ continues to promote a culture of life via articles, Ask Why TV programme, appearances on TCN and other TV and radio programmes to speak about pro-life issues, production of material for distribution etc. CCSJ continues to work closely with Human Life International, USA on pro-life issues. |
| 16 | Res 3b:2 Parishes to host ongoing fora to teach/educate the faithful on the social teaching of the church and encourage youth and community debates on values and counter-values continue Social Justice 11 Module online social justice course in partnership with CREDI & Univ. of Dayton, USA | Dec 7 2009 Jul 1 2010 | Dec 2011 Dec 2011 | CCSJ, in partnership with CREDI and the Univ. Of Dayton, is currently running an online Social Justice Modular Course. In 2010 11 persons completed this course. This year, 5 persons are now in Cycle 4: History of Catholic Social Action. Participants are expected to use the knowledge gained in their homes, parishes, communities and workplaces. We keep a data base so that we can draw on the expertise of these persons in the future. |

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| 17 | Res 3b:3 Develop programmes within the parish to support those young women and men who have chosen life in difficult circumstances. | Dec 7 2009 | Dec 2011 | CCSJ has responsibility for overseeing the work of the Mary Care Centre. The Archdiocese has passed responsibility for the day to day running of the Centre to Eternal Light Community – at a peppercorn rent. CCSJ oversees its work. The Management Board comprises: Msgr Jason Gordon, Bernadette Patrick, and Leela (CCSJ). |
| 19 | RESOLUTION #4: 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. Res 4:1 The Archdiocese to formulate policy and guidelines on environmental awareness | Oct 19 2009 | Dec 2011 | On 23 February 2010, CCSJ launched for consultation <i>A draft framework towards an Environmental Policy for the Archdiocese</i> . The consultation process ran until 30 June, 2010. TCN filmed the proceedings at the Launch and copies are available in CCSJ's resource bank. A 4-page pull out supplement outlining the Draft Framework was published in Catholic News on 14 March. A few minor amendments were made as a result of the consultation process and the document has been uploaded on CCSJ's website. On Jan 21: LR participated in the <i>1st National Conference for Environmental Management 2011</i> - 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. |
| 20 | Res 4:3 Organize/encourage participation in events that promote good stewardship of God's creation e.g. turtle watching, reforestation/replanting of trees, beach cleanup etc | Jan 2 2010 | Dec 2011 | The newly appointed Parish Link Coordinator and the 4 Vicariate Coordinators will continue work in this area. |

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| 21 | Res 4:4: The Archdiocese to take action to promote the Church as a 'green' Church, e.g. by raising awareness of how our daily choices affect the environment; encouraging the faithful to avoid being wasteful, to re-use items where necessary, and to re-cycle. | Jan 2 2010 | Dec 2011 | See 19 above. Also, CCSJ's Parish Link Coordinator and Vicariate Coordinators will take appropriate action to continue to promote this resolution. |
| 23 | RESOLUTION #5: 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: Res 5:2: Educate the People of God in their responsibility for the transformation of society and implement practical projects in each parish to achieve this purpose. | 8 Dec 2009 | Dec 2011 | CCSJ continues to focus on this issue in its various activities e.g. Seminars, Conferences, Ask Why TV programme, Media Releases, Publications such as CCSJ's Newsletter. CCSJ's Parish Link Coordinator and Vicariate Coordinators will include activities relating to this Resolution in their action plans. |
| 24 | Res 5:3 Use the Church's teaching on social justice in Homilies | Dec 8 2009 | Dec 2011 | CCSJ continues to upload Fr Joe Harris' (CSp) excellent homilies on our website to spread the Good News. It is hoped that the training of priests will include a focus on ways in which social justice can be incorporated in homilies. |

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| 29 | <p>Res #6:3: The Archdiocese to encourage the active involvement of individual Catholics in the Social cultural and political life of the nation. (By membership in Village/Community Councils, Local and National Government) and to encourage Catholics in decision-making positions to allow their decision-making to be influenced/shaped by Catholic tradition and teaching.</p> | Dec 8 2009 | Dec 2011 | <p>- CCSJ continues to raise awareness of this issue via our website, articles, public discussions, and the media.</p> <p>- CCSJ's Parish Link Coordinator and Vicariate Coordinators will encourage such involvement as part of their work in parishes.</p> |
| 30 | <p>Res 6:4 The Archdiocese to work in collaboration with the relevant Government authority in matters of social justice</p> <p>Continue working with Trinidad and Tobago Reintegration Foundation/Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre</p> | Jan 2 1010 | Dec 2011 | <p>Work in this area is ongoing e.g. The AG invited CCSJ's Chair to participate in a Civil Society Consultation for Universal Periodic Review. The UPR is designed to review the human rights record of every country and it is due in July 2011. CCSJ presented a paper to the AG and those attending the Consultation. The paper is available on CCSJ's website.</p> <p>The facility is complete and will be run by SVP. The land is being transferred from CCSJ to the Archdiocese and it will be let to SVP at a peppercorn rent to support this work. The first ex-inmate is expected at the end of June.</p> |