

## mini MICAH – September 2009

### Monthly update for members and friends of Catholic Social Services Victoria

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##### For your diary

- ✚ **Thurs 10 September 2009 – gathering of Religious associated with Catholic social services**  
2.00 – 3.30pm, Cardinal Knox Centre, East Melbourne – click for flyer  
<http://www.css.org.au/documents/GatheringofCSSVReligious-Sept09-Information.doc>  
RSVP to Emmy Silvius, tel 9287 5566, [esilvius@css.org.au](mailto:esilvius@css.org.au)
- ✚ **Thurs 24 September 2009 – 2009 Rerum Novarum lecture – An Australian Response to Climate Change**, Fr Charles Rue ssc  
7.30pm, Cardinal Knox Centre, East Melbourne – see <http://www.ccjdp.org> for further information. Inquiries / RSVP appreciated (03) 9926 5710
- ✚ **Wed 28 October 2009 – CSSV Breakfast Briefing, 7.30 – 8.45am**  
Topic: **Improving the protection of vulnerable children**, with Bernie Geary, Victorian Child Safety Commissioner  
RSVP to Emmy Silvius, tel 9287 5566, [esilvius@css.org.au](mailto:esilvius@css.org.au)
- ✚ **Further details below for the following events:**
  - 2 October 2009 – **Shekinah Ball**
  - 11 – 17 October, 2009 - **Anti-Poverty week**
  - 13 – 15 November, 2009 – **CSSV Women's Retreat**
  - 16 December 2009 – **CSSV Breakfast Briefing** – speaker to be announced
  - Thurs 11 March 2010, 4.30pm – **CSSV Commissioning Mass and AGM**
  - Friday 20 August, 2010 – **CSSV Annual Dinner**

##### Who am I?

- ✚ **Sr Janette Murphy rsj** from John Pierce Centre



## CSSV News & Development

### Report on CSSV Annual Dinner

Thank you to all members and friends who made the fourth annual Catholic Social Services Dinner, on 28 August 2009, a success.

The dinner was, among other things, a night of **recognition** of the work that the Catholic Social Services Sector undertakes in Victoria; and of celebrating that as a community. In that vein, Sr Toni Matha ibvm AO (pictured at right with CSSV Chair Peter Bearsley), was welcomed as a Life Member of CSSV, for her work in linking education and service, her work with the St Vincent de Paul Society, and her contribution to the development of Catholic social services through CSSV.



Other significant contributions were also acknowledged. These included the contributions of former CSSV Council members Helen McPhee and Suzi McManus, and the contribution to the sector of organisational leaders Paul Linossier of MacKillop Family Services, Michael Yore of Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services, and Sr Anne Halpin, of Wellsprings for Women.

Fr Tony Kerin was welcomed as the recently appointed Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Service in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and his predecessor in that role, Bishop Christopher Prowse, was welcomed in his new capacity as Bishop of Sale. The gathering also thanked Fr Peter Slater, Administrator of Sale Diocese during an extended inter-regnum, for his support for social services during that period.

A key goal of the evening was further **build our community of shared purpose**. Feedback indicated that this was achieved - guests enjoyed the evening, caught up with old friends, met people for the first time, and learnt more about the great variety of agencies and programs that were represented on the night.

A keynote address by Barrister Julian McMahon on '**Justice and Human Rights**', and a response by MacKillop Program Director Helen Burt, (both pictured at right with CSSV Executive Director Denis Fitzgerald) assisted reflection on the underlying ties that bind us as a community - our faith-inspired commitment to justice, and to the wellbeing of those who are marginalised. See brief article on our website that outlines the challenge laid down to be engaged in the big issues that cry out for justice in our world; and the need for us to be part of the intellectual debate that refines human rights as they are formulated in our society.



Again, thanks to all who participated in and supported this successful event, and helped us collectively to finish the evening even better placed to continue contributing to this essential work of the Church, of working towards a more just and compassionate society.

### CSSV joins study program on Catholic identity in pastoral and social care

Several Victorian Catholic social services representatives are joining 20 leaders from Australian Catholic social services in an intensive enrichment program over September/October 2009.

The program is based at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. It involves a series of academic presentations; visits to a range of pastoral and social care programs; and a challenge to reflect on the issue of Catholic identity in the context of pastoral and social care. The program involves an initial period in Rome, plus visits to programs in regions around Belgium, as well as extensive exposure to the theory and practice of ministry in these fields in Belgium itself.



CSSV Executive Director Denis Fitzgerald and Chair Peter Bearsley will join Fr Joe Caddy, CEO of Centacare Catholic Family Services, Paul Fogarty, Director of Centacare Sandhurst, Deacon Jim Erskine from the Diocese of Sale and Jenny Glare from MacKillop Family Services on the program. See <http://cssvic.blogspot.com> for a blog which Denis and Peter will update with reflections on the program as it unfolds. A series of reports back to the Catholic social services sector in Victoria will follow on conclusion of the program.



### **9 Sept breakfast –Encyclical 'Love in Truth' with Fr Bruce Duncan CSsR**

Thanks to Fr Bruce Duncan for his enlightening presentation at our most recent breakfast briefing, and to the 30+ people who made it worth his while to start the day so early. Notes on Bruce's presentation will be on the CSSV website soon.

The encyclical is rich and complex, and CSSV is in discussion with ACU and with Bruce about a further, longer engagement with it early in the New Year. In the meantime, there is an increasing amount of material available on the internet – see for example the 'discussion guide' available on the website of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council: [http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/publications/positionPapers/positionPapers\\_13\\_07\\_09.html](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/publications/positionPapers/positionPapers_13_07_09.html)

### **Proposal for 'Best Practice Workshop' on working with mental health issues**

The Research, Policy and Advocacy Committee of CSSV is planning A Best Practice Forum for 2010 on empowering organisations and their people for engagement with people suffering from mental illness. More news later. Anyone interested in contributing to the development of this is encouraged to contact Denis at [d Fitzgerald@css.org.au](mailto:d Fitzgerald@css.org.au), tel 9287 5569.

## **Around the Sector**

### **✚ Proposal for portable Long Service Leave**

Discussions between the Victorian Government and VCROSS-led agencies have not yet produced a workable proposal to provide portable long service leave across the Victorian community sector agencies. CSSV has therefore recommended to its members that they oppose the introduction of the proposal that is currently on the table. Please feel free to contact Denis for more information/ discussion etc on this issue: tel 9287 5569, [d Fitzgerald@css.org.au](mailto:d Fitzgerald@css.org.au)

### **✚ Bishop Tim Costello visits Churinga**

Responding to an invitation from St. John of God Accord, Bishop Tim recently made a pastoral visit to Churinga at Greensborough. Formed from the amalgamation of the ministries of the St. John of God Brothers and the St. John of God Sisters, the Accord group manages a very large disability services program across northern and western Melbourne, with some sites also in New Zealand. They are currently looking to further develop their links with other Catholic agencies. Bishop Tim commented on the strong community spirit, so evident in the warm relations between staff and clients.

### **✚ Archbishop Hart blesses Mercy Place**

Mercy Place, the first addition to aged care bed numbers in the City of Melbourne for 25 years, was recently blessed before 150 residents and guests. The state of the art facility on the site of the original St Mary's Convent and Chapel in Gipps St. East Melbourne, will accommodate 110 residents. One of four new Mercy facilities spread across the state, and the first one to be completed, Mercy Place will offer significant benefits because of its location. It also moves Mercy Health's aged care arm closer to an optimum overall size for a sustainable financial operation. Other projects are underway in Parkville, Warrnambool and Wyndham. Congratulations to the CEO John Ballard, Sr. Kath Tierney and the Mercy Congregation, and the Mercy Health Board under the leadership of Julien O'Connell.



### **Equity in Victoria**

Professor Richard Wilkinson, Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Nottingham, spoke recently at a VCOSS seminar about the issue of Social Inequality. His recently published book, 'The Spirit Level', has created enormous interest, linking as it does, very unequal societies and a wide range of major social/health problems and other debilitating pathologies. His research exposes the links between societies with major income disparities and levels of criminality, teenage pregnancy, early school leaving, mental health issues, and family breakdown to mention a few. He was very critical of the excessive emphasis on competition which he saw as going against any notion of caring for your neighbour. As evidenced in his research, the more equal societies like Scandinavia, all generally have significantly lower levels of social problems, while at the same time economically stable and competitive on a world stage. Published by Penguin in March 2009, the book will make interesting reading.

### **Volunteer Grants 2009**

These grants provide funding for eligible non-profit organisations to support their volunteers and encourage volunteering by:

- purchasing practical and tangible small equipment items to help volunteers; and/or
- contributing towards the reimbursement of volunteers' fuel costs incurred when carrying out their volunteering work, including those who use their cars to transport others to activities, deliver food and assist people in need.

Organisations can apply for grant funding from a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$5,000. See [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer\\_grant09.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grant09.aspx)

### **Changes at helm for St Vincent de Paul Aged Care and Community Services**

St Vincent de Paul Aged Care and Community Services (ACCS) has welcomed two new directors to its Board, and farewelled chief executive Dr Doug Kent, who has resigned after five years in the role.

The new directors, Peter Johnstone and Haydn Harrison, have between them a wealth of experience in senior roles in government, finance and aged care.

St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria chief executive Brian Dalton has been seconded to act as the ACCS CEO while the board seeks to fill the role on a permanent basis.

### **ABC Television: "Kids doing time"**

**Four Corners**, 24 August 2009, <http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/content/2009/s2662775.htm>

Reporter Matthew Carney goes inside to see first hand the conditions young offenders in juvenile detention are forced to endure. He goes with them when they're out of jail and trying to go straight and he asks why there aren't better support services to help them keep on the right side of the law.

The program includes profile of Marist Youth Care's Connect Ed.

'One program that is succeeding is run by Marist Youth Care. It's called Connect Ed and the Government is not funding it. In New South Wales charities are providing much of the diversion and intervention for kids at risk.'

### **"Christian Conscience" publication**

Christian Conscience is designed to guide health care practitioners through moral situations in an increasingly complex world.

Written by Father Norman Ford, one of Australia's leading theologians and ethicists, the book explores the challenges presented to practitioners of Catholic health and aged care by emerging moral and ethical dilemmas posed by the rapid introduction of new medical technologies.

To download an order form for the booklet: <http://www.cha.org.au/site.php?id=1840>



## For your diary

### **2 October 2009 – Shekinah ball**

Shekinah is a CSSV member that consists of a group of Catholic organisations that provide accommodation and support services to homeless people, advocate for development of services, and conduct community education on homelessness issues. The member organisations are Bethlehem Community, Corpus Christi Community, Good Samaritan Inn, McAuley community services for women, Prague House, St. Mary's House of Welcome, Sr. Francesca Healy Cottage, and The Way.

Shekinah organises an annual ball, for their residents and friends and supporters. The 2009 Ball is on Friday 2 October. See flyer for further details:

<http://www.css.org.au/documents/ShekinahBallInviteOct09.pdf>

All are welcome - an opportunity to express solidarity with those who are homeless in Melbourne, and those who support them.

### **11 – 17 October 2009 - Anti-Poverty week**

Organise your event for the week, and record it on [www.antipovertyweek.org.au](http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au) to help give the Anti Poverty initiative publicity and momentum



### **13 – 15 November 2009 – CSSV Women's Retreat**

Warburton Lodge, 18 Park Road, Warburton Vic 3799

Facilitator: Carole Carmody rsm

Click here for a flyer: [http://www.css.org.au/documents/Flyerv2-df\\_000.pdf](http://www.css.org.au/documents/Flyerv2-df_000.pdf).

Expressions of interest are now invited – contact Terry on (03) 9287 5570 or [toshannessy@css.org.au](mailto:toshannessy@css.org.au)

### **Wed 16 December 2009 – CSSV Breakfast Briefing**

Mark in your diary now – details to be advised

### **Thurs 11 March 2010 - CSSV Commissioning Mass and Annual General meeting**

All Saints Church and Hall, Nth Carlton, followed by supper at St Mary's House of Welcome, 165 Brunswick St, Fitzroy. Enquiries to Emmy Silvius, Tel 9287 5566, [esilvius@css.org.au](mailto:esilvius@css.org.au)

### **Friday 20 August 2010 - CSSV Annual Dinner**

## Who am I?

### **Sr Janette Murphy rsj from John Pearce Centre**



#### **Q: Tell us about where you work and your role**

The John Pearce Centre is the Catholic Centre for the Deaf in Victoria. We provide pastoral care, family support, sacramental preparation, rural outreach, and a community centre for Deaf people. Our centre is located in Prahran at the St. Francis Xavier Church building, where we hold monthly signed Masses in Auslan (Australian Sign Language). We also provide a variety of workshops and information sessions as required on topics such as Parenting Skills, Positive Communication, and Wills & Powers of Attorney. There is also play-group activities, school holiday programs, and group access to community events which may be difficult for Deaf people individually.



I have been involved at JPC since 1996, and am currently in my fourth year as Chaplain. My role is primarily concerned with the spiritual and faith development of Deaf people and their families. This involves sacramental preparation for Deaf and hearing children in Deaf families, marriage preparation for Deaf couples, funerals, and grief support.

JPC is similar to a parish for Deaf people, only on a larger scale across the Melbourne metropolitan area and throughout the other dioceses in Victoria. Because of the distances involved we assist people to link in with their local parishes where appropriate. Sometimes this involves organising an interpreter which then enables a Deaf person to attend programs or workshops provided in their local parish, or it may be that JPC provides sessions for a Deaf group in a particular geographical area. It really depends on the current needs and what is most beneficial for the Deaf people involved.

**Q: Have you a piece of advice or an encouragement that has helped you in life or work?**

My mother taught me to look beyond the external and find the beauty within, because once you see it that's all you can see. I think this is essential for life, and for truly appreciating those around you.

**Q: What do you do to wind down or relax?**

I love reading and movies. I find it difficult to walk past any bookshop, especially if there's a Café attached, without checking out the literary offers with a nice latte.

Likewise, nothing beats a good movie followed by a "cappuccino de-brief"!

**Q: Have you a particular role model?**

Mary MacKillop of course!

**Q: If there is one thing you could change in the world today what would that be?**

I hope and pray for true equality in the Catholic Church, where the people, who are the Church, are actually recognised as being the Church. This means equal opportunities in fulfilling any role to which one feels called – no matter one's gender etc. The hierarchical model that we see now is not what Jesus shared with us when he gave us his Holy Spirit.

**Contact us**

*mini MICAH* thrives on news! Send your news, updates, and any items of interest to [office@css.org.au](mailto:office@css.org.au)

Please also let us know of any events, celebrations etc in your agency or program – we are keen to keep in touch with developments, and to assist with publicity etc where that is appropriate.

**Catholic Social Services Victoria**

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<p><i>Denis Fitzgerald</i> Executive Director <a href="mailto:d Fitzgerald@css.org.au">dfitzgerald@css.org.au</a> 9287 5569 <i>[Denis will be out of the office from 14 September to 20 October]</i></p>	<p><i>Terry O'Shannassy</i> Member Support and Projects <a href="mailto:toshannassy@css.org.au">toshannassy@css.org.au</a> 9287 5570</p>	<p><i>Emmy Silvius</i> Office Administrator <a href="mailto:esilvius@css.org.au">esilvius@css.org.au</a> 9287 5566</p>
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