

mini MICAH – October 2009

Monthly update for members and friends of Catholic Social Services Victoria

Contents

CSSV News & Developments

- ✚ CSSV joins Leuven program on Catholic Identity in pastoral and social service
- ✚ Proposal for 'Best Practice Workshop' in 2010 on working with mental health issues -
Please forward any suggestions for this to Denis Fitzgerald dfitzgerald@css.org.au
- ✚ Upcoming political forum end November 2009
- ✚ CSSV Women's Retreat cancelled

Around the Sector

- ✚ Review of Guardianship & Administration Act 1986
- ✚ Wellsprings for Women AGM
- ✚ Comely Bank opening its doors to bushfire victims
- ✚ 2009 Rerum Novarum Lecture – Let the Son Shine
- ✚ Coming in from the CALD – CD launch at Ozanam Community Centre
- ✚ Reference to articles of interest – Editor's pick

For your diary

- ✚ **Wed 14 October 2009 – Anti-Poverty Week event: Trading out of Poverty**
Support the Good Shepherd Trading Circle by purchasing their products at the Cardinal Knox Centre between noon and 2pm
- ✚ **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, on 9287 5566 or email esilvius@css.org.au
- ✚ **Further details below for the following events:**
 - 11 – 17 October, 2009 - **Anti-Poverty week**
 - 7 October 2009 – **Who am I in a hungry world?**
 - 13 October 2009 – **Making a Life in Australia**
 - 30 October 2009 – **CHA Pastoral Care Forum**
 - 3 to 9 December 2009 - **Parliament of the World's Religions**
 - 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?

- ✚ **Cameron Cutts – Community Leader of L'Arche Melbourne**



CSSV News & Development

CSSV joins Leuven program on Catholic Identity in Pastoral and Social Service

Denis Fitzgerald, Executive Director of CSSV, is taking part in this program along with 21 fellow leaders of Catholic Social Service agencies around Australia. The first part of the trip consisted of a week in Rome. Here the group interaction has been built around a fairly steady round of meeting people, visiting Churches and other sites, liturgies and various organised sessions, walking the streets and enjoying casual meals. They also participated in a general audience with the Pope.

The group then travelled to Leuven in Belgium to start on an intensive program involving a series of academic presentations, visits to a variety of pastoral and social care programs, as well as reflecting on the issue of Catholic identity in the context of pastoral and social care. Peter Bearsley, Chair of the Council of CSSV is also participating in the trip. For regular updates from Denis, visit his blog at <http://cssvic.blogspot.com>

Upcoming political forum end November 2009

CSSV proposes to hold a Political Forum in November to enable members to engage with Government and opposition members around policy issues in the lead up to the 2010 state election. Current planning is to have 3 Ministers whose responsibilities cover most of the welfare sector and corresponding opposition members. We would hope to initially outline a Catholic perspective on current welfare issues and invite both groups separately to respond with ideas and suggestions as to possible options for addressing areas of concern. Details will be forwarded as soon as they are available.

CSSV Women's Retreat cancelled

The retreat that was planned for November 2009 has been cancelled due to lack of interest. Next year we will assess the situation anew to see if there is a need for us to organise such an event. We appreciate any feedback that you may have regarding this.

Around the Sector

Review of Guardianship & Administration Act 1986

Following the Passing of the Human Rights Charter, the State government has directed the Law Reform Commission to review a number of acts of parliament to create broad compliance. Member agencies with dealings with guardians and the Office of the Public Advocate who have any concerns about the operation of the current act are invited to make contact with the CSSV office, with a view to a response to the commissions' hearings. It might prove useful later to gather interested agencies together to share insights and concerns. Enquires to Terry O'Shannassy on 9287 5570 or email toshannassy@css.org.au

Wellsprings for Women AGM

There have been some significant changes since the previous AGM. The main one being that Veronica Hassett has taken over the management role from Sr Ann Halpin who retired in 2008. Ann was the Founding Manager of Wellsprings and was very much loved and admired by all with whom she worked. See <http://www.css.org.au/documents/WellspringsAGMforMM.pdf>

Comely Bank Retreat in Healesville welcomes victims of the recent bushfires

The Sisters of Charity have generously offered their facilities at Comely Bank to be used for counselling sessions, overnight stays etc. They have a huge house that can sleep up to eight people plus a hall with fully equipped kitchen. For further details go to <http://www.css.org.au/documents/ComelyBankOffer.pdf>



2009 Rerum Novarum Lecture – Let the Son Shine

On Thursday 24 September Fr Charles Rue SSC presented a talk on an Australian Catholic response to climate change, in the Cardinal Knox Centre. This event was attended by approx 80 people and involved much discussion with varied points of view afterwards.



See report <http://www.css.org.au/documents/2009RerumNovarumLectureSep09a.pdf>

Fr Tony Kerin, Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Peace in the Archdiocese **launched the 2009 Social Justice statement** at the end of the Lecture. http://www.css.org.au/documents/LaunchoftheSocJustStmnt_Kerin.pdf

Coming in from the CALD – CD Launch at Ozanam Community Centre

The office had the privilege of sharing the recent launch of this CD of traditional lullaby, story and song. A very creative way of engaging homeless and marginalised people, particularly those from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds. **Coming in from the CALD** was able to challenge systemic, entrenched beliefs regarding CALD, and it was noted how each participant's experience of being 'other', either through homelessness and/or CALD united the group in a strong sense of shared experience.

The project was funded by a City of Melbourne Cultural Development Arts Grant and grew out of St. Vincent de Paul's Ozanam Community Centre in North Melbourne. The centre has harnessed the creative talents of the local participants, the commitment of their staff and the generosity of a number of professional musicians who mentored and guided the project. Following in the steps of 'The Choir of Hard Knocks', this and other creative music ventures highlight the value of artistic expression in helping the development of self esteem. Congratulations to the Ozanam Centre team and the wider St. Vincent de Paul Society for this innovative work with the marginalized.

References to Articles of Interest

Can we end poverty? Do we really want to know? In this article serious questions are asked about how we can best assist the poor. For example, a detailed view is given on the difference between sponsoring a child and supporting a whole community. See <http://www.caritas.org.au/ozspirit/2009/200b.html>

The Global Financial Crisis – Opportunity for Transformation. Prof John Langmore examines the causes of the current economic crisis. He suggests political and financial reforms not only to prevent a similar crisis in the future, but also to bring about a more just and equitable society. See <http://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au/Portals/3/docs/Langmore%20Financial%20Crisis%209Sept09.pdf>

For your diary

Wednesday 7 October 2009 at 8pm – Who am I in a hungry world?

Spirituality in the Pub – The Veneto Club, 191 Bulleen Road, Bulleen. Dinner from 6pm. Sr Margaret Fyfe and Shanaka Fernando will provide insights into how our choices make a difference to people and how or whether they are fed. For information phone 0417 319 556.

11 – 17 October 2009 - Anti-Poverty week

Organise your event for the week, and record it on www.antipovertyweek.org.au to help give the Anti Poverty initiative publicity and momentum.

The aims of the week are to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and to encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems. Poverty and severe hardship affect more than a million Australians. Around the world more than a billion people are desperately poor. Parishes/communities might look to see how they can respond to the opportunities and challenges of Anti-Poverty Week 2009.

Contact: apw@antipovertyweek.org.au or 1300 797 290.

Resources and information about events are available at <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au>



Tuesday 13 October 2009 at 7.30pm – Making Life in Australia

The Brigidine Asylum Seekers' Project will be holding a discussion evening at 52 Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park. As asylum seekers gain permanent visas, a whole new phase of life begins for them. Urgent matters include learning anew language, understanding cultural assumptions, finding accommodation and finding work. RSVP on 9696 2107.



Wed 14 October 2009, 12 to 2pm – Trading out of Poverty, Cardinal Knox Centre



Various social service agencies of the Melbourne Archdiocese have organised with the Good Shepherd Trading Circle to sell items from the Trading Circle at the Cardinal Knox Centre. A large selection of goods will be available, such as clothing, toys, cards and jewellery. All are welcome at the **Lansdowne room**, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne and help others to help themselves. For flyer go to <http://www.css.org.au/documents/AntiPovertyWeekCKC.pdf>



Wed 28 October 2009, 7.30 to 8.45am – CSSV Breakfast Briefing

Child Safety Commissioner, Bernie Geary will be speaking on 'Improving the wellbeing of vulnerable children in Victoria'.

Abuse undermines the integrity of human persons and their future flourishing. All people have the right to a safe environment, whether that is in their homes or the institutions of our society. (2009 Social Justice Sunday Statement)

Click for flyer: http://www.css.org.au/documents/Oct_09_flyer.pdf

Please note change of venue – Thomas Carr Centre, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne



Friday 30 October 2009 – CHA Pastoral Care Forum

Catholic Health Australia invites members to a forum to discuss how health and aged care services can incorporate spiritual issues and become more people centred, examine professional development and interfaith issues, and identify barriers and enablers in the delivery of pastoral services. For further information and registration see <http://www.cha.org.au/site.php?id=35>



3 to 9 December 2009 – Parliament of the World's Religions

PWR is the world's largest inter-religious event which is held once every five years. The Melbourne Parliament will bring together more than 8,000 people from across Australia and around the world, including renowned spiritual, religious and political leaders. This year's theme is *Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, healing the earth*. It reflects the urgent need for religious and spiritual communities and all people of goodwill to act on their concerns. See <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org>



Wed 16 December 2009 – CSSV Breakfast Briefing (Details to be advised soon)



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



Friday 20 August 2010 - CSSV Annual Dinner

Who am I?

Cameron Cutts, Community Leader at L'Arche Melbourne

Q: Tell us about where you work and your role

L'Arche Melbourne is an ecumenical Christian Community centered on sharing life with intellectual disability people. In 1964, through his friendship with Dominican priest Father Thomas Philippe, a man called Jean Vanier became aware of the plight of thousands of people with intellectual disability who were institutionalised. Vanier felt led by God to invite two men, Raphael Simi and Philippe Seux, to leave the institutions where they resided and share their lives with him in a household in Trosly-Breuil, France. They called their home "L'Arche" French for "The Ark", as in





Noah's Ark; a place of refuge, of diversity and let's face it, mess! From this little household of three there are now more than 135 L'Arche communities throughout the world, in places such as Zimbabwe, India, Philippines, Haiti, France, Canada, Ireland and here in Australia. In a divided world, L'Arche wants to be a sign of hope. Our communities are founded on covenant relationships between people of differing intellectual capacity, social origin, religion and culture. We seek to be signs of unity, faithfulness and reconciliation. Here in Melbourne there has been a group dreaming of establishing a L'Arche community since the 1970's when Jean Vanier addressed a packed Melbourne Town hall. The faithfulness of that group finally paid off last year when L'Arche Melbourne was accepted as an 'official' L'Arche Community. Currently there are about forty five members of L'Arche Melbourne. Of this group about a third are members with intellectual disability, a third are parents and family members and another third are members whose life is significantly shaped by their commitment to the mission of L'Arche. Currently L'Arche Melbourne operates a community household where three of us share daily life together, a house of hospitality which will be used as a place of welcome and respite, a monthly gathering, a summer holiday program, in home support, outreach to families, reflection days, retreats and anything else our members with intellectual disability might need. My Role as Community Leader is to somehow hold all this together, calling each member to grow in their relationship with themselves, each other and with God. As a partially funded organisation we are also accountable to various government departments and funding bodies.

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

Each of us is beloved of God, that is who we truly are, that is our identity. Each of us needs to remember this especially when times are tough.

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

I love to read non-fiction books particularly theology, share a nice bottle of wine with friends and family, am a sucker for a really big blockbuster Hollywood movie and love to spend time wandering around the city surrounded by lots of people...you could say I'm a bit of an extrovert.

Q: Have you a particular role model?

I have a couple, one is Jean Vanier for his ability to be authentically present to each person he meets and the other would be Margaret, a woman with intellectual disability who I lived with in L'Arche Sydney for over 10 years. Margaret loved me and all around her with an unbounded heart. I pray that I may learn to love as well as Margaret.

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

That each person may know, truly know that they are loved by God, and with this knowledge have their hearts freed from fear.

Contact us

mini MICAH thrives on news! Send your news, updates, and any items of interest to 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

383 Albert St (PO Box 146) East Melbourne Vic 3002 03 9287 5566

<p><i>Denis Fitzgerald</i> Executive Director dfitzgerald@css.org.au 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 toshannassy@css.org.au 9287 5570</p>	<p><i>Emmy Silvius</i> Office Administrator esilvius@css.org.au 9287 5566</p>
---	--	--

To nominate new subscribers or to unsubscribe to mini MICAH, email esilvius@css.org.au.