

Social Justice Policy Statement for Parish Assembly

September 2008

Preamble

As member of our Faith community, we are called to participate in the renewal of Parish life and ministry.

The Social Justice Group's purpose is to work

- for justice and respect for human dignity,
- for peace and for right relationships among all people
- and concern of all creation.

This work is an essential part of our faith,
the living out of the Gospel,
in the Church's mission in Alice Springs.

Action for Social Justice is rooted in Scripture
and the Social Teaching of the Church.

Jesus came that we might have life and have it in abundance (Jn 10:10).

He identified himself with the poor, the oppressed, the powerless,
and all who are deprived of their dignity and human rights.

His heart was filled with compassion,

Jesus calls us to actively manifest his compassion -
his message of life, hope, justice and peace

to a world so greatly in need of healing and transformation.

Role of the Social Justice Group

The role of the Social Justice Group of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish is to be a positive voice addressing the social issues not in keeping with our Catholic Faith. In our ministry we will follow the Church's "See, Judge, Act" methodology of working for justice.

Activities will include:

- Making Social Justice issues of our society known through the Prayers of the Faithful, regular articles in the parish quarterly and bulletin, letters to the editors of newspapers and communication with other Churches,
- Promoting the Social Teachings of the Church,
- Acknowledging the actions within the community that are already working to resolve such issues,
- Seeking input from affected parties,
- Liaising with charitable groups within the parish, ensuring that these communicate and work together as on parish,
- Working with Social Justice groups outside the parish,
- Working with other groups eg Hospitality, Arrernte, Liturgy, Faith Education, Youth to promote Social Justice issues.
- Particular attention toward issues concerning the Arrernte people of our parish.

Social Justice Policy

- Obtaining commitment from authorities and other persons involved to work toward resolving specific issues,
- Following up on commitments.

The Social Justice Group will include of any parishioners of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs willing to be involved. As the need arises, separate working groups will be established.

Outcomes

In five years, we see Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish as an advocate for Social Justice within the community. This will not be seen as an optional extra but as an integral part of living out our Catholic faith. The parish will respond to issues of injustice with prayer, action advocacy.

Through this work we respond to Christ's call for respect, human dignity, justice, peace and love for all.