

*The Policy of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs,
for*
**A More Collaborative Relationship between Indigenous and non-
Indigenous Catholics of Central Australia.**

A Five Year Plan
2008-2013

MISSION

That all members of OLSH participate more deeply in that community of love and service which flows from the communion of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Goal 1: To build a strong sense of being one Liturgical Community by:

- Celebrating at least one combined but special liturgy each year.
- Celebrating Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter together.
- Holding a common celebration of NATSIC Sunday, Sacrament of Confirmation
- Encourage all parishioners to be involved in civic celebrations e.g. NAIDOC, Sorry Day.
- Learn a new Arrernte song each year leading to a common Parish choir.

Goal 2: To find practical ways of supporting indigenous parishioners.

E.G.:

- Partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Families
- Form a “Transport Group” or volunteers to bring people to church (maybe a car pool)
- Assistance with food and clothes (material needs)
- Help indigenous kids get to school

Goal 3: Improve communication between Ngkarte Mikwekenhe Community, bush communities, camp dwellers and the communities who worship at Hartley Street by:

- Being sensitive to racist comments and biased or exclusive attitudes e.g. Comments that imply Ngkarte Mikwekenhne Community is not part of OLSH parish.
- Find opportunities of sharing our stories e.g. at bush/camp or during liturgies.
- Utilise the parish magazine to highlight good news stories.

- Presence of indigenous at the P/Council & other groups in the parish

Goal 4: To be able to ‘laugh’ together through combined social events.

- At least one picnic together per year.
- Create opportunities for friendship to develop across the different communities
- An annual trip (pilgrimage) to Altunga and/or Santa Teresa.
- Take interest in Aboriginal works of art as God’s gift

Goal 5: To develop a knowledge base or archives of good news stories.

- Collect the histories of Charles Creek, Arltunga and Santa Teresa, (Br. Ed Bennet)
- Use videos and other IT instruments
- Collect WYD08 testimonials

Goal 6: To encourage all parishioners to take concrete action in supporting the economic, social and spiritual needs of the Indigenous Peoples.

- Help erect the proposed Pope John Paul 2 Chapel.
- Assist the programs at Ngkarte Mikwekenhne Community
- Support the proposed Capacity Building Project
- The Social Justice Group to take on local issues that truly affect the health & well-being of indigenous in Central Australia (land rights, irresponsible mining, Native Title, Govt Intervention etc)
- Sponsor indigenous peoples in Central Australia attend courses at Nungalinya College in Darwin.

Goal 7: To help ensure the preservation of indigenous cultures and languages in Central Australia.

- Encourage indigenous to live out their Aboriginality
- Assist in the full translation of the Sacramentary, the entire Bible and Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- To encourage indigenous participation and contribution to the Church and be prepared to accept them as God's gifts.

- Encourage all parishioners and priests learn local Aboriginal languages and culture – a 'two-way learning' process
- OLSH College to involve local community members in the school curriculum through language lessons, 'bush trips' etc.

The river is the river and the sea is the sea. Salt and fresh, two separate domains. Each has its own complex patterns, origins, stories. Even though they come together they will always exist in their own right. My hopes for reconciliation are like that. (Pat Dodson 1996)

The leaves are scorched and the tough bark is scarred and burned; but inside the tree the sap is still flowing, and under the ground the roots are still strong. Like the tree you have endured the flames, and you still have the power to be reborn. (Pope John Paul 2 1986)
