

Tasmanian Catholic Justice and Peace Commission

CHARTER

Love must inspire justice and the struggle for justice.

Pope John Paul II, 1980

Mission Statement

To bring about a just society and promote peace in Tasmania in keeping with Catholic Social Teaching.

Structure and Responsibility

This diocesan Commission was formed in 1992 and is responsible to the Archbishop of Hobart. It has a maximum of 11 Commissioners appointed by the Archbishop. Each Commissioner serves an initial 3 year term with an option to extend to a further 3 years. There are 5 formal meetings of the Commission each year.

Aims and Objectives

1. Educative

To promote understanding and awareness of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly in the areas of justice, peace and ecology, and to assist the people of the Archdiocese to better integrate this understanding within an evolving Christian lifestyle.

Provide learning opportunities which lead to increased understanding and a lived experience of (a) Catholic Social Teaching, (b) relevant scripture and theology, (c) social analysis skills and (d) social action.

Serve the Archdiocese by inviting all parishioners and Catholic movements and organisations to participate in the Commission's learning opportunities.

Set the content of these learning opportunities within the context of contemporary Australia as well as global socio-cultural, political and economic contexts.

Provide opportunities for the development of a spirituality that underpins working for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

2. Formative

To support and develop critical thinking and social action skills in parishioners.

To develop, maintain, support and facilitate a Social Justice Network across all Tasmania.

2.2 To develop social analysis and social action skills within parishioners.

2.3 To mentor leaders in these skills

2.4 To develop the social analytical, research, leadership and action skills of the Commissioners.

3. Collaborative

Work in a collaborative way with Church and outside organisations in research, social analysis, social action and prayer to promote social justice in Tasmania.

3.1 To collaborate in research, position statements, social analysis and social action with other Church organisations (e.g. Centacare) on relevant social justice projects.

3.2 To collaborate with organisations outside the Church in promoting social justice in Tasmania.

4. Advisory

To advise the Archbishop and the wider Catholic community in Tasmania about social justice issues.

4.1 Routinely advise and report to the Archbishop concerning matters of social justice and to respond to issues raised by the Archbishop.

4.2 To raise awareness and inform the Catholic community of social justice issues (e.g. through the JustNet newsletter).

4.3 To advise the Catholic and wider community of how Catholic Social Teaching contributes to the analysis of certain social justice issues.

4.4 To speak out on issues as and when needed, in conjunction with or independently of the Archbishop.

5. Analytical

To engage in research and analysis of current social justice issues, including policy preparation.

5.1 To undertake original research and social analysis of issues raised by the Archbishop, parishioners, Church organisations or outside organisations.

5.2 To prepare public documents on social justice issues.

5.3 By dialogue with the poor and marginalised persons, and by research, determine the nature, extent and causes of injustice and inequality in Tasmania.

Contact Details

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