

NEW ARCHDIOCESAN PLAN COMMENCES IMPLEMENTATION

By Jamie O'Brien

THE NEED to walk faithfully in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd was the central message Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe this week reinforced, as he paid thanks to those who have participated and contributed to the development of the new Archdiocesan Plan.

Members of the working parties and Archdiocesan staff, who contributed their time and experience during development of the plan, came together this week at the West Australian Club for the official 'Thank You' event.

The new Plan will now move into an implementation period which is expected to be carried out over the next five years.

"The Plan is more than just a document," the Archbishop said.

"It will enable us to walk together on the pathway which we hope will deliver a Christ-centred, faithful, vibrant, welcoming, inclusive and mission-oriented Church, one which will enrich our own lives and the lives of all whom we encounter and seek to serve," he added.

Following a brief introduction and welcome by Working Party Chair, Danny Murphy, Archdiocese of Perth CEO, Greg Russo, gave an over-



The Archdiocesan Plan Co-ordinating Group Chair, Danny Murphy; Executive Officer, Jane Kikeros; Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe; and Archdiocese of Perth CEO, Greg Russo. PHOTO: RON TAN

view of the new Plan which encompasses seven key areas: Professional Standards, Effective Communication, Support for Clergy, Strengthening & Revitalising Parishes, Adult Faith Formation, Outreach to those in Need and Archdiocesan Growth and Support.

Mr Russo also explained the development process of the plan, which commenced with a preparation of the key priority areas and establishment of the working parties in late 2014.

In September 2015, the plan moved into an extensive consultation phase with clergy, parishes, agencies, groups and individuals across the Archdiocese.

Mr Russo explained the

preparation and consultation phase of the plan incorporated the broadest process of its type yet undertaken within the Archdiocese.

He added that, in order to achieve the outcomes of the Plan, a new structure has been developed which includes three key tasks, including the bringing together of the Archbishop's Office, Church Administration and the Archdiocesan Finance Office to one central location.

"This will facilitate more effective and timely communication with and between the Archbishop, key clergy and the Archdiocesan administration executives and staff," Mr Russo said.

"The second key task includes expansion of the

Archdiocesan structures to include newly created positions envisaged in the Archdiocesan Plan and the subsequent allocation of responsibilities by the Archbishop to ensure implementation of key priority area strategies and actions, ongoing review of plan milestones and effective communication of its progress.

"And, finally, the third key task includes changes to Archdiocesan Administration executive and staff structures to support the implementation of the key priority area strategies and actions," he said.

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VISITING CARDINAL URGES ACTION ON TEACHING

By Caroline Smith

VISITING HONDURAN Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga, – who was invited to Perth for the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) Conference, – has called for a return to Catholic values in the education system and spoken of the need for action on climate change at two separate events.

His Eminence Cardinal Maradiaga spoke at the confer-

ence on 22 June about the role of Catholic schools in evangelisation and the formation of students, and later gave the Mary Ward Social Justice Lecture at John XXIII College on the topic of environmentalism.

At his earlier presentation, the Cardinal, who is a Professor of Moral Theology, emphasised the historic role of the Church in the education of students, and the continuing role it should play in equipping them for the world.

“The education of the

human person is an essential part of (the Church’s) mission,” he said.

“We can say that charity and culture are signs of the Church’s mission - within culture, the work of the Church in the field of education is as old as the Church itself.”

He stressed that, in the midst of growing individualism, rationalism and the gulf between rich and poor in society, Catholic schools should respond to this crisis by focusing on key values and

models for living.

“The Church needs to respond to the real challenge of education... and it must be ready once again to make its contribution to the formation of the human person,” Cardinal Maradiaga said.

“The Catholic school should not only be about the teaching of values, but also about the art of living, which is at the heart of evangelisation.

“Education is not a secondary task, but it is part of the evangelising mission of the



Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga – in Perth for the National Catholic Education Commission Conference – has given two key speeches, calling for faith values in education and action on climate change. PHOTO: CAROLINE SMITH



Archbishop gives credit to Christ-centred education in Australia; describes it as a gift we must protect

By Caroline Smith

ARCHBISHOP Timothy Costelloe has last week described Catholic education in Australia as a precious gift that must be protected, with Christ placed at its centre.

During a Mass for the National Catholic Education Commission Conference on 21 June, Archbishop Costelloe urged teachers, other staff and congregants to remember the importance of Jesus and His teachings in their work.

“The greatest challenge facing the Church today and, therefore, the greatest challenge facing Catholic Education, is to start afresh



Mass for the National Catholic Education Commission Conference was celebrated by Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga – who was visiting Perth for the Conference - and co-celebrated by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, Auxiliary Bishop Don Sproxton, Bishop Christopher Saunders, Bishop Justin Bianchini, Bishop Gerard Holohan, Bishop Mark Edwards OMI, Bishop Greg O’Kelly SJ and assisted by Deacon Mark Powell. PHOTO: JESSE ROBERTS

from Christ,” he said. “We must return Jesus Christ to His rightful place at the heart of every aspect of Catholic education, and we must

return Catholic Education to Him, offering it to Him as a gift of which we can be proud, confident that it is, to the very best of our ability,

exactly what He wants it to be.”

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THE FAITH AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



Church - this moment when education is in crisis is when the Catholic school has to reaffirm its identity to be able to effect these challenges with joy.”

On the topic of rationalism, Cardinal Maradiaga said students should be encouraged to see reason and faith as working together, rather than in opposition, and use these to address real issues of the human person.

“The Catholic school should contribute to this new humanity, and the synthesis between reason and faith,” he said.

The Cardinal added that values taught in the school would help students navigate their way through more problematic messages received through the media as well.

“This influence has been able to replace the family in the transmission of values,” he said.

“Far from forming better people, the media turns them

into passive subjects at the service of specific interests.

“Catholic education must look for the morality of conscience, which enables young people to be critical of their surroundings, so that they may unmask the ideologies that are enslaving humanity today.”

Presenting the Mary Ward lecture later that day, Cardinal Maradiaga’s focus changed to one on climate change, and the effect of environmental disaster on some of the poorest of the world’s people.

As President of Caritas Internationalis and former Vatican spokesman to the International Monetary Fund on Third World debt, this is an issue that is undoubtedly close to his heart, and he began by explaining why Caritas’ own position on the issue is based on ‘climate justice’.

Full Text available at
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2016 FEDERAL ELECTION: VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS: A STATEMENT BY THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF AUSTRALIA ON THE ELECTION

With the 2016 Federal election scheduled for this Saturday 2 July, The eRecord is this week re-publishing the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference statement regarding the election, entitled, A Voice for the Voiceless.

AUSTRALIA’S CATHOLIC Bishops called for the voices of the thrown-away people to be heard in the long federal election campaign. The Bishops issued a statement on the 2016 Federal Election in May, addressed to Catholics and all people of goodwill.

“During the long election campaign, there will be much talk about the economy and the need for good economic management at a time of some uncertainty,” the Bishops said. “Both sides of politics will

state their economic credentials in a bid to win power.”

The statement went on to say that the economy is important and requires sound management. “But, as Pope Francis has pointed out, there is also a danger that the economy can become a kind of false god to which even human beings have to be sacrificed.”

“This leads to what the Pope has called the throw-away culture - a culture of over-consumption where all kinds of things are thrown away, wasted, even human beings.

“That is why we Bishops want to speak a word as part of this campaign - not in order to push an ideological line or simply to defend the Church’s interests but to give a voice to the voiceless and make their

faces seen, however briefly, in a statement such as this.

“But it is not just individual people who are thrown away. The same can happen to the environment, both social and natural. At the heart of a healthy social environment, there is marriage and the family.

“The fact is that economic decisions have been less and less favourable to families in recent years; and it may be that political decisions in the future will undermine further the dignity and uniqueness of marriage as a life-long union of man and woman. Support for marriage and the family does not look like a big vote-winner, so that even the most basic human institution, upon which the health of a society

depends, can become part of the throw-away culture or, at best, an optional extra.

“Pope Francis has said that the earth, too, cries out for justice at this time. The natural environment - the land we live on, the air we breathe, the water we drink - even this can become voiceless, so that the earth’s cry for justice can go unheard. Now is the time to act, so that the natural environment is able to meet human needs rather than be sacrificed to the god of the economy.”

You can find the full statement, including the Bishops’ list of some of the people discarded in our throw-away culture, at www.catholic.org.au/election.

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www.therecord.com.au

2016 LIFELINK WINTER APPEAL: Everybody contributes at Emmanuel Centre

By Rachel Curry

As part of the Archbishop's 2016 Winter Appeal for LifeLink, The eRecord is this month taking a closer look at the work of organisations such as Identitywa, Centrecare, Catholic Ministry for People who are Deaf or Hearing Impaired, Daydawn, Emmaus Community, Emmanuel Centre, Centacare Employment & Training, The Shopfront and Catholic Outreach.

Each year, thousands of people walk through the doors of the Emmanuel Centre – a volunteer-run, self-help centre for people with disabilities located near the Perth CBD.

Often described as “the place to contact if you have tried everywhere else”, the centre has a large volunteer base through which information, support, counselling, advocacy, library lending and resources, work experience and training are offered.

This month, The eRecord journalist, Rachel Curry, spoke to Daniel who has been receiving support from the Emmanuel Centre since 1982.

Letting go of preconceptions about what people can and can't do is at the forefront of the philosophy of the Emmanuel Centre.

LOCATED ON Windsor Street in central Perth and largely run by volunteers, the Archdiocesan LifeLink agency has been operating as a self-help centre for people with disabilities for 35 years.

One person who has been visiting the Emmanuel Centre



Archdiocesan LifeLink agency, the Emmanuel Centre, helps people with disabilities, such as 61-year-old Daniel, develop skills and friendships in a supportive environment. PHOTO: RACHEL CURRY

for almost all of that time is 61-year-old Daniel, who was referred to the agency in 1982.

Daniel, who has cerebral palsy, said he kept coming back to the centre because of its sense of community and welcoming environment.

“It’s mainly that you get a relationship with people and see the same people every day,” he said.

“Sometimes, we have arguments but we get over it; we don’t come to blows about it.”

Possessing a sharp wit and dry sense of humour, Daniel has held several jobs at the Emmanuel Centre, including recycling the newspapers and mowing the lawns.

A back injury currently prohibits him from doing any physical work, so he has returned to the familiar role of entertaining people with his stories and songs.

“I’ve got a good sense of humour but it’s not appreciated by some. I’ve told a few

lies and a few untruths over the years,” he said with a grin.

According to Emmanuel Centre Co-ordinator, Barbara Harris, Daniel’s storytelling skills are just as good on paper as they are in real life.

“He’s actually a very good writer. He’s got a very quirky way of writing stories,” she said.

Samples of his writing hang on the walls, as do his artistic creations from the centre’s various programs that run on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Mrs Harris has known Daniel for decades and recently helped him fulfill a long-held desire to attain a birth certificate and trace his family history.

She said she had noticed significant change in him over the years.

“He was very traumatised when he came and didn’t have a very good self-image. His confidence in himself has really grown,” she said.

These days, Daniel lives in the Emmanuel Centre’s Christian Community and shares his skills with the other people who live there.

He said he recognised that his life was more than just receiving help.

“I receive and I give where I can,” he said.

Daniel’s story is just one of many that demonstrate the importance of the Emmanuel Centre, which is often described as “the place to go if you have tried everywhere else”.

The goal this year is to raise more than \$300,000 to help agencies and organisations that assist people in need in a variety of situations – whether it be in the form of practical emergency assistance or long-term support.

To donate to LifeLink, please visit www.lifelink.com.au.

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