



Act Justly

New leaders bring diverse experiences to Pontifical Council

Recent appointments to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

For the Vatican body dedicated to promoting peace and justice, the new year has begun with new figures at the helm. This month, Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson has been appointed Council President and Dr Flaminia Giovanelli Undersecretary.

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace was established in 1967 by Pope Paul VI, in order to make the Church's social doctrine more widely known; to network and collaborate with other organizations; and to provide information to Rome on justice, peace, human rights and development.

Both Cardinal Turkson and Dr Giovanelli bring conviction and experience to their new roles. 61-year-old Cardinal Turkson is the retired archbishop of Cape Coast, Ghana, and is now Rome's most senior African official. He has stated in interviews that he will draw on his African background as president. In particular, he explained that experience of injustice – including the oppression inflicted by corrupt governments and foreign exploitation - and a deep cultural appreciation of solidarity are two elements of the African experience that will motivate him in his work.

Cardinal Turkson is replacing Cardinal Renato Martino, who has stood down on grounds of age. Dr Giovanelli, who worked closely with the previous president, has described Cardinal Martino as a great example of 'selfless service.'

Dr Giovanelli is a native of Rome and has worked for the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace since 1974. She holds qualifications in political science, religious studies and library science and is an expert in the labour and development policies of international institutions



such as the International Labour Organization, the Council of Europe, the European Union, and the United Nations Councils

Dr Giovanelli is the first laywoman to serve as undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and currently the second most senior woman in the Vatican.

Cardinal Turkson and Dr Giovanelli have both confirmed that their further work with the council is likely to take up some of the concerns addressed in Pope Benedict XVI's last encyclical, including ethics and economics, and care for the environment. For Cardinal Turkson a key theme of the Pope's recent statements on the environment has been solidarity:

"... Our life on earth depends as much on the earth as our life on the earth depends on us," says Cardinal Turkson. "So it's like a symbiotic type of relationship which we need to appreciate more now than we've ever done."

The Cardinal is also convinced of the need to develop a personal relationship with Christ as a foundation for faith and for the work of justice and peace.

According to Dr Giovanelli, other priorities include promoting religious liberty and addressing the problems associated with migration.

Contents

WORLD DAY OF PEACE STATEMENT	2
STOP FOR POVERTY	2
ENCOUNTER WITH HOMELESSNESS	2
LENT AND JUSTICE	3

The Justice and Peace Office is an agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. The Office promotes justice, peace, ecology and development through educational, collaborative and advisory activities based on the social teachings of the Catholic Church.

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Pope urges preservation of creation to foster peace

Pope Benedict XVI began 2010 with his annual World Day of Peace message, which this year took the theme: *If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation*. In his opening paragraph, the Holy Father writes: ... *Man's inhumanity to man has given rise to numerous threats to peace and to authentic and integral human development – wars, international and regional conflicts, acts of terrorism, and violations of human rights. Yet no less troubling are the threats arising from the neglect – if not downright misuse – of the earth and the natural goods that God has given us. For this reason, it is imperative that mankind renew and strengthen “that covenant between human beings and the environment,*

which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and towards whom we are journeying.’

Pope Benedict goes on to explore the connection between peace, ecology and justice, noting the plight of ‘environmental refugees’, and the possibility of reality of conflict over resources. He urges a response to a growing number of ecological crises including climate change, pollution of rivers and deforestation, among others.

Among the responses that the Holy Father recommends are: reviewing the dominant model of development; recognising moral dimensions of economic decisions; pursue new, less con-



rediscovering the link between the environment and “human ecology”, which involves the protection of life at every stage and in every condition, and the promotion of individual, family and social ethics.

To read the statement in full go to:
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/index_en.htm



Do you want to put a stop to extreme poverty in our world? Here is your chance to make an impact. Be one of hundreds of Sydney-siders to assemble suddenly in pre-determined public places, perform a synchronised ‘Stop Global Poverty’ freeze, and then disperse casually back into a curious crowd of onlookers!

When: Tuesday, 16 February 2010

Where: Secret locations in Sydney's CBD

Time: 1.10-1.13pm

Find out more at www.stopforpoverty.org and tell all your friends today!

Under the Bridge: An encounter with homelessness

Matthew Williams-Spooner a year 12 student at Waverley College. These are his reflections on volunteering with the St Vincent de Paul Society Night Patrol service.

A cold, dark Friday night in the city, permeated by the occasional wail of sirens, set the tone for Night Patrol to do their work for the homeless. Adjacent to a police station, a group of desolate people had banded together under a bridge for protection, into a Hooverville on a miniature scale....

Out of the group wandered, a loner, destination unknown, staggering indecisively, before a man came to their aide and redirected their course. A woman, drenched in her own blood from self-inflicted wounds, emerged from the darkness in a state of delirium. Two Aboriginal men came to help her and

within minutes she was in the care of Ambulance Officers. The Aboriginal men told us of this woman's situation, explaining that she was an addict, heroin was her drug of choice, and she had lost more than one child due to overdosing. She “treated life as a ride and a joke”, which they thoroughly disparaged. They were the leaders of this group that lived together and made it their personal business to oversee that their people weren't without friends, food or warmth.

Among their people there was great diversity. A man who was homeless because he had spent his last cent on surgeries for the dog who had saved his life. A man who had allegedly been a professional boxer but had suffered brain damage and finished on the streets. And a woman

who had tragically lost her husband to cancer, and was left without any income to support her.

These Aboriginal men were beyond friends, beyond leaders and beyond protectors for these people. They were the real heroes, the ones that give their lives to those who have it rough, despite their own troubles. It changed the way many of us saw homelessness and the homeless, coming to appreciate the true struggles that they undergo, constantly under the scrutiny of the world. So we went about our business, doing what we could in the short time we were allotted to the area. However, long after the last teaspoon of sugar was doled out and we had packed up the van and left for our next location, those men were there, helping and protecting their people. It was a powerful experience that opened my eyes.

Lent: calling us to a deeper commitment

During Lent, Catholics all over the world recommit themselves to following the way of Jesus Christ. They make small changes and listen more attentively, in order to restore right and peaceful relationships, both with God and those around them.

Many helpful resources are produced to help you go deeper in Lent. Below are a few that directly make the connection between Lent and a world restored to justice, peace and integrity of creation.

Caritas Australia: Project Compassion Resources

During Lent, parishes and schools around the country participate in Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Caritas provides resources that include materials for reflection and prayer as well as stories from the Caritas' work on the ground. Download these for free at www.caritas.org

Love Life Live Lent

This Church of England UK initiative encourages communities to take daily actions during Lent. Available via <http://www.livelent.net/index.html>.

Joan Chittester and Beverly Bell: Cry Justice! Cry Hope!

A booklet linking Sunday readings with the experience of women in the global south. Available from Pauline Books and Media: www.paulinebooks.com.au.

Diocese of Wollongong: Do You Love Me?

A program for personal and group use focusing on service in Christian life. Features artworks by Fr Seiger Koder.

Order from www.dow.org.au/lent/lent2010.

World Council of Churches: Cries of Anguish, Stories of Hope

A series of study resources, available

during Lent, that will help congregations and individuals to do their part to end violence against women. The resources will include films, stories, bible studies, liturgical resources and opportunities for online discussion.

Available from February 17 as a downloadable toolkit from <http://www.overcomingviolence.org/en/resources/campaigns/women-against-violence.html>

The Justice and Peace Office invites you to a

Lenten Reflection Day

Saturday 27 March, 2pm – 5pm

St Mary's Catholic Church

Ersleville

Speakers Fr Paul Ghanem and Jenni Hickson will share about the connections between Lent and the call to lives of justice and stewardship.

For more info contact 9390 5319 or email

What's on around Sydney

January - March Exhibition: Sudanese Stories

A celebration of the resilience and spirit of Sudanese migrants and refugees now living in Blacktown. Hear and see their stories, in the community's own words. **9:30am - 7:45pm, Level 1, Max Weber Library, 61 Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown.** Contact: 9839 6677. or go to www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au/exhibition/sudanese-stories/.

4 February Afternoon Tea for the Future: After Copenhagen

Hear about the experience of the Pacific Calling network at Copenhagen and the response to the Edmund Rice Centre's recent petition. There will also be an informal discussion about the corporate response to climate change. **2pm – 4pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Rd, Flemington.** Contact: 8762 4299 or leoniec@erc.org.au.

4 February Does God love a Hitler less than a newborn baby?

A talk by Fr Michael Whelan using scripture, philosophy and story. **7:30pm, St Mary's Catholic Church, 264 Miller St, North Sydney.** Contact: 9437 5291.

4 February Workplace Bargaining in the US

A talk by George Cohen, Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and Ronald Meisburg, General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board. **6pm - 7:30pm, The Allens Arthur Robinson Lecture Theatre, Sydney Law School, New Law Building, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney.** Registration essential. Contact: 9351 0248.

5 February Asylum-Seekers: Humanitarian or Racist Response?

Politics in the Pub presents Kate Gauthier from A Just Australia and Steve Cornelius from Amnesty International. **6pm - 7:45pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills.** Contact: 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au.

11 February Reconciling God and Mammon: Adam Smith and Theology

Professors Gavin Kennedy and Paul Oslington, and Dr Brendan Long discuss and debate the links between the influential thinker's free market economics and theology. Cost: \$11. **6pm – 7:15pm, Library, The Centre for Independent Studies, Level 4, 38 Oxley St, St Leonards.** Contact: 9438 4377 or go to www.cis.org.au.

What's on around Sydney (cont.)

12 February Post-Copenhagen - Australia's ETS: Where to now?

Politics in the Pub presents Mark Diesendorf, UTS Institute Environmental Studies and author, and John Kaye, NSW Greens MLC. **6pm - 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devon-shire Street, Surry Hills.** Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au.

14 February Kamay-Botany Bay Day of Healing: Shaping our Future Together 2010

A multi-faith celebration on the second anniversary of the National Apology to Australia's Aboriginal People, featuring smoking ceremony, speeches, dances and traditional games. Cost: \$7 parking. **1:30 to 5:30pm, Kamay-Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell.** Contact: 02 9523 9514.

16 February This is what we said: Northern Territory Intervention

Jason Glanville, CEO of the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, launches this book by community group Concerned Australians. *This is what we said* recounts the views of Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory and critiques the Federal Government's recent consultation process. **6pm - 8pm, Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe.** Bookings: 9660 2333 or www.gleebooks.com.au/events/

16 - 25 February Blueprint for a Better World

A multimedia exhibition from Caritas Australia, which highlights the Millennium Development Goals and the promise of governments to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. **Weekdays: 9am - 7pm, Weekends: 10am - 4pm, Martin Place.** For more info go to: www.caritas.org.au/blueprint/index.html, or contact 8306 3425 to volunteer.

18 February Blueprint for a Better World: Jazz for Justice

Legendary Australian musicians Doug Parkinson and Grace Knight unite for a unique evening highlighting the long history of music and social ac-tion. This exciting event is strictly limited so get in early for your FREE tickets (max 2pp). Licensed bar and BYO food. **6.00 to 8.00 pm, The Amphitheatre, Martin Place.** Con-tact: jazzforjustice@caritas.org.au or 1800 024 413.

18 - 19 February Mental Health Service Summer Forum: The Right to Care that Works

Speakers university and community sectors address topics ranging from coercive treatment and mental health to mental health and equity. Cost: \$585. **Crowne Plaza Hotel, Darling Harbour.** For more info go to: www.themhs.org/summer-forum/2010-summer-forum.

19 February Blueprint for a Better World: Fish Friday

Caritas Australia offers Sydney-siders an opportunity to share in a simple meal of fish and rice to mark the commencement of Lent and Project Compassion, and to show solidarity with the millions in our world who rely on fish and rice as their staple diet. Top Aussie chefs will be cooking. **12pm - 2:30pm, Martin Place.** For more info go to www.caritas.org.au.

22 February Blueprint for a Better World: Morganics

Morganics is an award-winning Sydney-based hip hop artist, performer and director. Join him for this free concert highlighting the work of Caritas Australia. **1pm - 2pm, The Ampitheatre, Martin Place.** For more info go to www.caritas.org.au.

24 - 25 February Climate Action 2010: Rebuilding Capacity and Strategy Post-Copenhagen

This conference which will review the outcomes at Copenhagen and prepare strategies towards the 2010 Federal elec-tion. **Sydney Mechanic's School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney.** For more info go to: www.cana.net.au

27 February Palms Australia Focus Workshop

This sessions is for anyone interested in volunteering overseas to reduce poverty. Explore the practical and personal dimensions of this kind of work, learn about development theory and Catholic Social Teaching, and find out what it takes to get involved. Contact: 9518 9551. For more info go to: www.palms.org.au/news/latest/28/.

27 February Micah Action Training Day

Get equipped to speak out for God's justice and get on board with Micah Challenge's 2010 election campaign. Featuring-presentations from politicians and policy experts and practi-cal workshops. Cost: \$15 / \$10. 9am to 3pm, Morling College, 120 Herring Road, Eastwood. RSVP: nsw@micahchallenge.org.au. For more info go to: www.micahchallenge.org.au/events.

The initiatives above are organized by a range of Church and non-Church groups throughout Sydney. The Justice and Peace Office does not necessarily endorse the views and perspectives that will be expressed at these events.