



Inside this issue:

- IPA and Oceania News* 1
- The Cry of the Poor and the Cry of the Earth* 2-3
- Reconciliation Care for Earth* 4

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connections to this land and we thank them for the care they have shown to Earth over thousands of years.

We are constantly reminded that war, violence, misery and injustice are the lived reality of so many people. We know if we are indifferent or yield to helplessness, we collude with the perpetrators of injustice and violence and add further to the misery of the world.

In this issue we reflect on ways we can take back our power and choose to see the possibilities for healing and transformation.

Anne Shay, Peta Anne Molloy



So every day light your small candle.
(Marian Wright Edelman)

Our Action:

- Prepare submission for Rio+20 Conference
- Write letter to politicians in support of asylum seekers.
- Write submission for Constitutional amendment to acknowledge Indigenous peoples
- Preparation for IPA Assembly September 2012
- * Respond to Fatima's request on how each Congregation has supported the MDG's in the past 4 years.

IPA Justice Contacts' Meeting
31 August - 2 September

Towards the end of August the six Australian Justice Contacts met at Manly. We were joined by Ruth Coleman from New Zealand. We were delighted to welcome Society President Maureen Watson to our meeting.

We discussed current issues including Asylum seekers, coal seam gas mining, sea mining in New Zealand, and the proposed Constitutional amendment to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples as the first peoples of Australia. Global issues included preparation for the Rio+20 Conference, progress with the Millennium Development Goals and preparation for the 2012 IPA Assembly. Early in 2012 we will prepare the Society Justice report based on reflection of "What is emerging for us as IPA?"

Joan Power reported on her UN NGO experience.

The Road to Rio+20

Rio+20 aims to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges.

The UN has invited Major Groups, interested in being involved in the Rio + 20 process to submit papers on how the world can move towards



sustainable development. IPA is one such group which will submit a paper based on input arising from discussions in all Presentation Congregations.

Rio+20 will focus on two themes ...

- A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
- The international structures to promote sustainable development.

The Cry of the Poor ...

Voices for Asylum Seekers and Displaced Peoples

I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matt. 25:35)

The media have at times demonised the people who come to our shores seeking asylum from war and injustice.

This campaign of dehumanisation can turn reality upside-down and make the powerful feel they are the victims of the powerless.

How can it be that a group of desperate asylum seekers could inspire such animosity and rage throughout Australia and reignite old fears rather than an informed debate about our obligations to the most marginalised and powerless?

These people remain at risk of being pawns in a continuing game of political point-scoring until our national leaders find the resolve to adopt a bipartisan approach to meeting Australia's obligations.

*Australian Catholic Bishops
Social Justice Sunday 2010*

Pope Benedict marked World Refugee Day, with an appeal to political leaders to *"guarantee a welcome and dignified living conditions"* for refugees.

All that is needed for the triumph of evil in the world is for good people to do nothing.

Edmund Burke 1729 - 1799



Bishop Vincent Long
Nguyen

As Australia debates new measures to stop asylum seekers arriving by boat, Pope Benedict has turned the tables somewhat by appointing Australia's first Vietnamese-born bishop. Vincent Long Nguyen OFM arrived by boat in 1980.

Today, unfortunately, it seems that every possible barrier is put in the way of asylum seekers and refugees who come to Australia seeking protection from persecution.

They also seek the fulfillment of their fundamental human rights and ultimately a better quality of life in a free and democratic society." said **Judith Troeth** in her valedictory speech in the Australian Senate.

She compared the present situation with the time when the Fraser government was responsible for "the generous and compassionate accommodation" of Vietnamese refugees and when Menzies welcomed the Europeans fleeing postwar devastation.

Suggested action: Contact Chris Bowen to ask for a more humanitarian approach to asylum seekers.

The Hon Chris Bowen MP
Minister for Immigration
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: Chris.Bowen.MP@aph.gov.au

Bring Down the Wall

The Brisbane Rally for Palestine on Saturday 9 July was part of an International Call for an end to the Israeli wall which prevents Palestinian citizens from moving freely in their own country.

We heard that over 17 000 Palestinian houses have been demolished, creating thousands of homeless people. Over a million Palestinian olive and fruit

Construction of the Separation Wall began in 2002. When completed, the total length will be approximately 760 km.

Brisbane-Newcastle: 785 km,
Brisbane-Rockhampton: 649 km.



The barrier is a *fence* with vehicle barrier trenches surrounded by an exclusion area approximately 60 metres wide (90% of its length), and an 8 metre tall concrete *wall* (10% of its length).

The barrier is built mainly in the West Bank. Close to 90% of the route of the fence/wall is on Palestinian land on the

- encircling Palestinian towns and villages;
- cutting off communities and families from each other;
- separating farmers from their land and Palestinians from their places of work and education and health care facilities and other essential services.

In the Psalms when we read *Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem*, let us remember the Palestinian people - the people of Jesus and Mary.

... and the Cry of the Earth

Coal Seam Gas Dangerous to Health of All Australians



Right now we still have the opportunity to avoid the disastrous environmental mistakes made by other countries. Did you know that if a gas company thinks there is gas under your land, you do not have any legal right to stop them entering your land to explore it and, if you try to stop them, they can take you to court? And, when they finally leave your land, which could be 20 years from now, your

property may be a toxic wasteland. Are you aware that gas leases in Queensland and New South Wales already cover an area 10 times the size of Tasmania? We have the largest pure water source in the world. In fact, the Great Artesian Basin covers a vast area of our land mass (almost one quarter in total), and Australia is one of the few countries where it is safe to drink the tap water at

On behalf of my family and friends and my fellow Australians, I would like answers to the following questions:

- What studies have been done to prove beyond any shadow of doubt that coal seam gas mining does not damage and pollute the water table?
- What chemicals are being used in CSG exploration and mining?
- Why are mining companies exempt from revealing the chemicals used in fracking?
- If no extensive studies on the effects of these chemicals have been done, why are they already in use?
- Has the government considered that we may be sacrificing a sustainable source of food and water for a short-term financial gain?
- In our land of abundant sunshine surrounded by ocean, have we thoroughly explored alternative non-toxic energy sources?

cf Olivia Newton-John *SMH* 31/7/11

WRITE to your Federal and State politicians, asking them the questions Olivia Newton-John has written.



To the extent that we acquire a sense of wonder and awe at creation, we are naturally moved to give thanks to the One who created it all. An attitude of gratitude leads one to a more respectful response to creation.

Each day our lives should be a thanksgiving day. If we acquire such a viewpoint, we are much more likely to care for creation as God's gift and thus to avoid abuse of the environment.

Fr. Lawrence E. Mick

Did you know:

- 30 million trees annually supply Australian paper
- Only 11% of Australian office paper is recycled
- Recycling paper uses half the energy and water needed for new paper
- Every one tonne of paper uses 13 trees, 2.5 barrels of oil, 4,100kwts of electricity, 4 cubic metres of landfill space and 31,780 litres of water (*Transpacific Industries*)

What you can do about it:

- Use the library instead of buying new books
- Use handkerchiefs instead of tissues
- Use washable cups and take your own coffee mug when buying coffee
- Use egg cartons as seedling trays
- Use scrap paper for shopping lists

Questions from Joan Chittister

- For whom has your Congregation spoken lately—and who knows it?
- What have you stood for lately so that by standing others may find heart to stand as well?

(LCWR address 19/8/06)

Reconciliation - There are More Bridges to Cross



An Historic Decision -

Land Rights for the Quandamooka People 2011

A Voice from Stradbroke Island

Monday 4 July marked an historic occasion for Aboriginal land justice. The Federal Court of Australia determined that the Quandamooka people are the traditional custodians of their country on North Stradbroke Island. This is the first successful native title claim in South East Queensland, providing land justice right on Brisbane's doorstep.

Quandamooka man Ian Delaney who has been fighting for North Stradbroke Island for decades said:
The decision has brought me joy and relief. It's been a long, hard road and I always thought we'd never get there. I'm just proud of belonging to the Quandamooka people. The most important thing is the recognition of who we are on this island and surrounding areas.



It's been a long time coming. It's finally been approved and it's fantastic. We own the majority of the island and some will be national park, some will be freehold, some of it will be Aboriginal land.

We've always been like that, we shared our land.

www.abc.net.au



Terra Bulla Leumah
A beautiful place—here I rest

These are the people who gave us Oodgeroo Noonuccal, one of the great poets of Australia. They are a proud and industrious people and they've worked hard for this outcome.

Anna Bligh, Premier of Queensland

Submission for Amendment to the Constitution

This is an extract from the submission the Society Justice Contacts have prepared:

The Society of Presentation Sisters acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land and submits that it is time the Australian people recognised the rightful place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution. This would be a positive step towards reconciliation and building a nation based on mutual respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and other Australians. We, Presentation Sisters, submit the following in relation to the Constitution:

- A statement of recognition acknowledging the unique and distinct identities, cultures and contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in a preamble to the Constitution, or in the body of it.
- A statement of values recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and setting out fundamental values of our society, in a preamble or in the Constitution itself.
- The repeal of any provisions in the Constitution currently based on racial discrimination.
- New power for the Australian Government be included to legislate to protect the cultures and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to redress historical disadvantage.



THE
PACHAMAMA
ASSOCIATION

Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium

A chance to come together with conscious, aware people who care about what's happening in the world, our community and with our families. A look at challenges and opportunities today: the state of our world and how we got here, a new dream—new ideas about connection, surprising solutions and how you can be part of what's emerging!

Many Presentation Sisters and Associates have already participated in this Symposium. Several Sisters are trained facilitators. It is hoped that we can offer this Symposium to more Sisters and Associates in 2012.

Australian Society of Presentation Sisters

4F/9 Redmyre Road
Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: (02) 9737 5600

Fax: (02) 9739 5656

Email: society@pbvm.org.au

Web: at <http://presentationssociety.org.au/>

