

Dear friends,

Each year, Lent offers us the opportunity to share what we have with those who have less.

In 2006, just over 8 million dollars was raised for Project Compassion. Your generosity enabled Caritas Australia to do so much to help so many people in need around the world. Thank you.

2007 marks the 40th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Populorum Progressio – On the Development of Peoples*. This was an extraordinary document for its time and is just as relevant today as it was in 1967 when it was first published.

The overarching message of *Populorum Progressio* is that we all have a role to play in empowering people to help themselves break free from poverty and be “architects of their own progress.” However, this can only happen if we act justly and “play fairly”.

This is why the theme for Project Compassion in 2007 is *Fair Play Today*.

Some key tenets in *Populorum Progressio* include: a “striving for fuller growth”; that “development [is] the new name for peace”; the importance of challenging discrimination; that development is more than economic growth; the value of education; the necessity of involving people in their own development. These important tenets frame the work of Caritas Australia and are reflected in this year's Project Compassion stories.

Among our many projects, Caritas Australia would like to help:

- The people of Bangladesh through fish-farming and other income generation activities (MDGs 1-7)
- The people of East Timor as they rebuild their lives (MDG 1)
- The people of South Africa as they determine ways to respond to HIV and AIDS and seek to challenge the stigma and discrimination associated with the disease (MDGs 1-7)
- The people of Peru as they develop their crop, cattle and sheep production (MDGs 1-7)
- The people of Vietnam through income generation and other educational programs such as a savings group and health education (MDGs 1-7)
- Empower Indigenous Australian communities (MDG 1)

In *Populorum Progressio* Pope Paul VI warned “the [majority world] will have no grounds for hope or trust if they fear that what is being given with one hand is being taken with the other.”

This challenge is echoed today in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) signed by all UN Member States, including Australia, which aim to halve world poverty by 2015. MDG 8 in particular calls for: more and better aid; fairer trade; cancellation of debt. In effect, this goal calls for *Fair Play Today*, *Fair Play* which cannot be delayed.

Building a just world involves standing in solidarity with the oppressed. It also involves *Fair Play* in the way we treat ourselves, each other and our global family. If the vision of *Populorum Progressio* is to be truly realised we need to practise and promote *Fair Play* in all that we do. Let us rise to this challenge and insist upon *Fair Play Today*.

Yours sincerely in Christ



Archbishop Adrian L. Doyle

Chairperson, Caritas Australia



fairplaytoday