

PRESENTER NOTES

This PowerPoint has been developed to raise awareness of the key messages of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si' (Praised Be): On the Care of our Common Home*, released on 18th June 2015. This Encyclical is a clarion call to all faithful and people of good will, to respond to the need to work towards greater ecological (environmental and human) justice.

The presentation is split into two sections: the first is a backgrounder on the key messages of the Encyclical, the calls to action, and how we can respond. The second is a prayer and reflection based on St Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of Creation* – the inspiration for the Encyclical's title.

Please note:

- There is a link to a video on one of the slides. You will need an internet connection to watch the video. It will open in a separate browser.
- This is a PowerPoint saved as PDF. To view like a PPT, open in View>Full Screen mode.

LAUDATO SI' (PRAISED BE TO YOU): ON THE CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME



OUR COMMON HOME

Pope Francis has released a new Encyclical, entitled *Laudato Si': On the Care of Our Common Home*.

An encyclical is a letter circulated by the Pope to Catholic churches worldwide. It is also addressed to all people of good will.

Papal encyclicals provide analysis, in the light of the Gospel and of the Tradition of the Church, on relevant issues for the faithful.

“All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.” [14]

WHAT IS AN ENCYCLICAL?

= LONG 'LETTERS'
WRITTEN BY POPES
TO THE CHURCH
AND THE WORLD



<https://vimeo.com/131171122>

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?



Watch this short video by our sister agency, CAFOD (Caritas England & Wales): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8unGCTWUWI>

OVERVIEW

Pope Francis' letter tells us that one of the important reasons to stop climate change is because it has a negative impact on people living in poverty.

We need to make sure the most vulnerable are especially looked after.

We will now hear the stories from three countries that are being affected: Bangladesh, the Solomon Islands and Australia.

"...hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" [49]

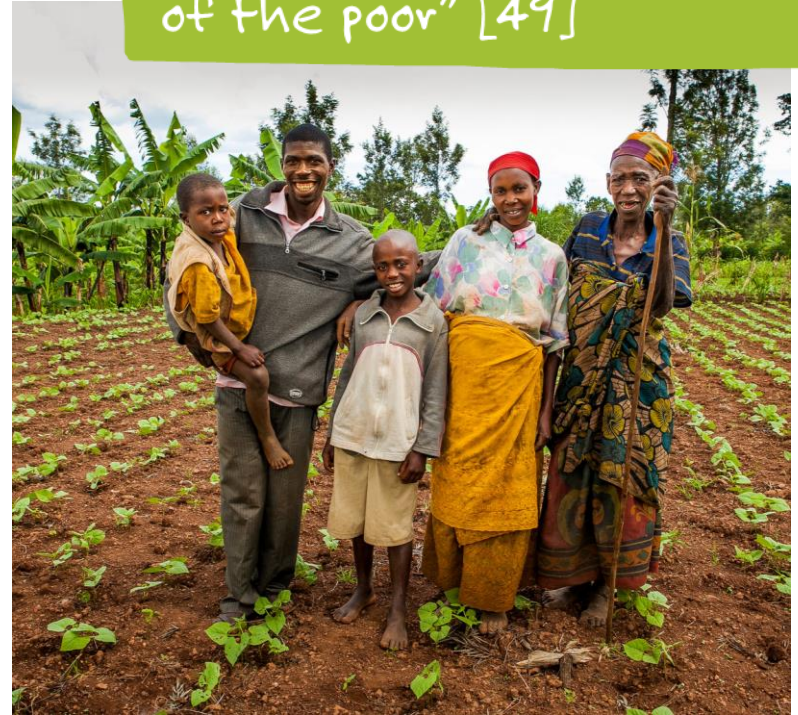


Photo credit: Isabel Corthier, Caritas International, Belgium

BANGLADESH – CLEVER FARMING!

Before 2008, Gusto was a poor and landless farmer. His family did not have enough money to send their three children to school, and often there was not enough food to eat.

Gusto's village is one of the most vulnerable in the world to climate change – especially to rising sea levels, extreme river floods, more intense tropical cyclones and very high temperatures. This means farming is a risky business.



Photo credits: Richard Wainwright

BANGLADESH – CLEVER FARMING!

“[The Caritas program] has ensured my family’s food security.” Gusto

After joining the Caritas program in 2008, Gusto learnt new ways to protect his crops, like putting the vegetable beds higher up and using rice that can grow even in salty water.

Gusto’s family now has enough food for the whole year. He also teaches other people in his village the same skills he learnt.



Photo credit: Richard Wainwright

SOLOMON ISLANDS- NURSERY RHYMES PROGRAM

Do you know the message “*Get down low and go, go, go*”? It’s a little rhyme that teaches us what to do in a fire.

Children learn many lessons from songs and rhymes. Caritas works in the Solomon Islands, where Martina is a teacher. She uses clapping and singing to teach the children what to do if there is a natural disaster, like a flood or an earthquake. Often the storms happen during school time.

The project is a big success. In 2013, there was another big storm. But this time, more children stayed safe because they knew what to do.



Photo credits: Richard Wainwright



End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

AUSTRALIA – ABORIGINAL CARBON FUND

Climate change is making Australia hotter, with more very hot days and with longer and more frequent heatwaves.

Australia's First Peoples are deeply connected to their traditional lands. But these lands are located in some of the hottest areas of the country. Rising temperatures have increased the risk of devastating bushfires.

Caritas is working with Rowan, who is from the Wondunna clan of the Badtjala people. He has set up the Aboriginal Carbon Fund.



Photo credits: Kowanyama Land Office



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AUSTRALIA – ABORIGINAL CARBON FUND

Over the last 40,000 years, the traditional owners in Australia actively managed the land by making small fires in winter. This prevents very hot late-season fires. They also only produce a little amount of carbon (greenhouse gases) that will go into the atmosphere.

By counting the amount of carbon saved, the Fund can sell carbon credits to reduce national carbon emission levels.



Photo credits: Kowanyama Land Office

AUSTRALIA – ABORIGINAL CARBON FUND

Over the last few years, this program has prevented the hot summer fires, and it has also had social benefits.

The Kowanyama project gets people out on country and gives them access to bush tucker and other resources. It gets families and clans together, and helps with maintaining traditional knowledge and a healthy lifestyle.

It provides for better management of country. And it strengthens people's connection with country.



Photo credits: Kowanyama Land Office

CALL TO ACTION

Caritas Australia is working with many more communities to help people affected by climate change. But Pope Francis also reminds us that governments and every person need to be kind and fair to everyone and to our planet!

“Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.” [13]



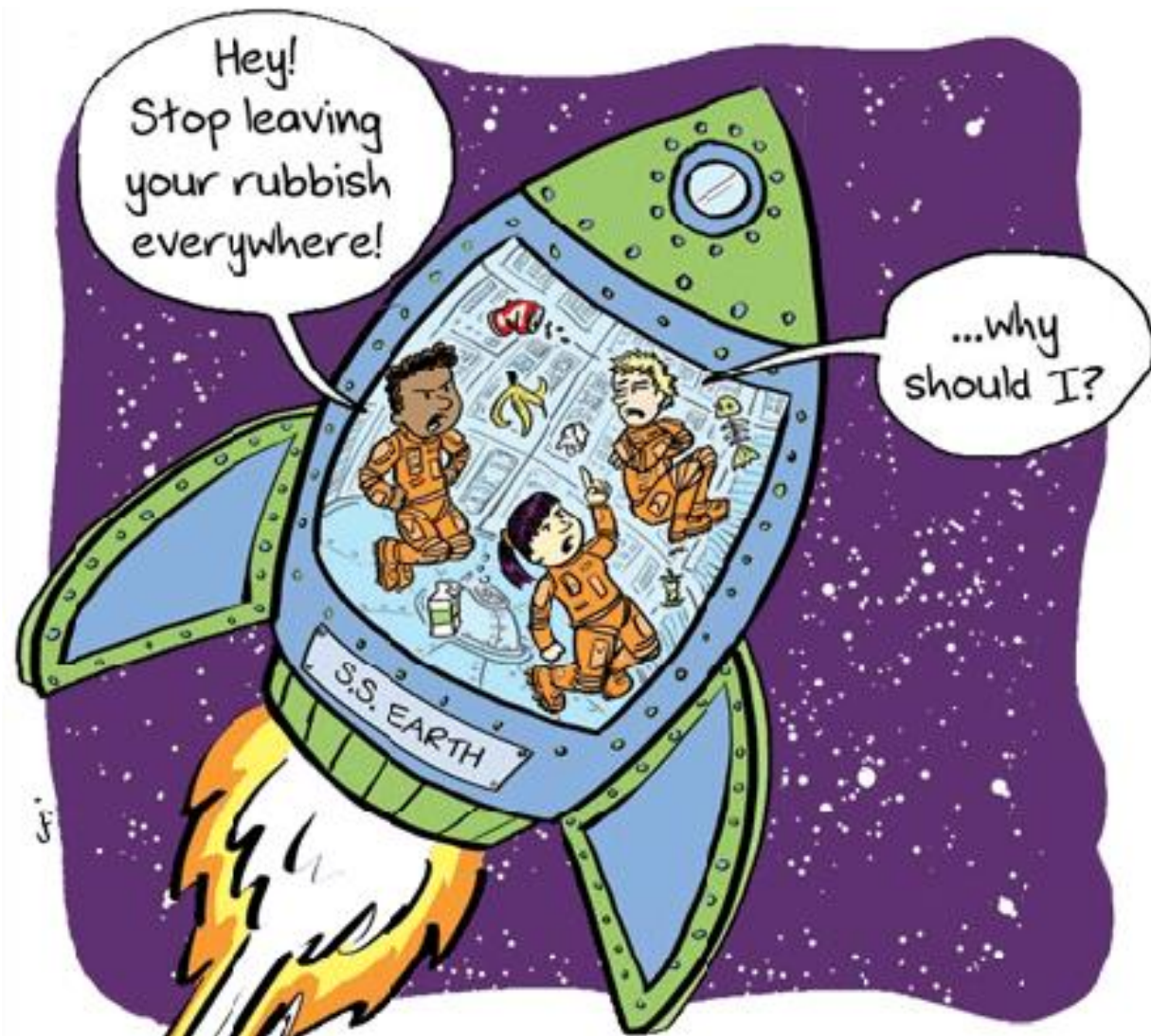
VIDEO – STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION



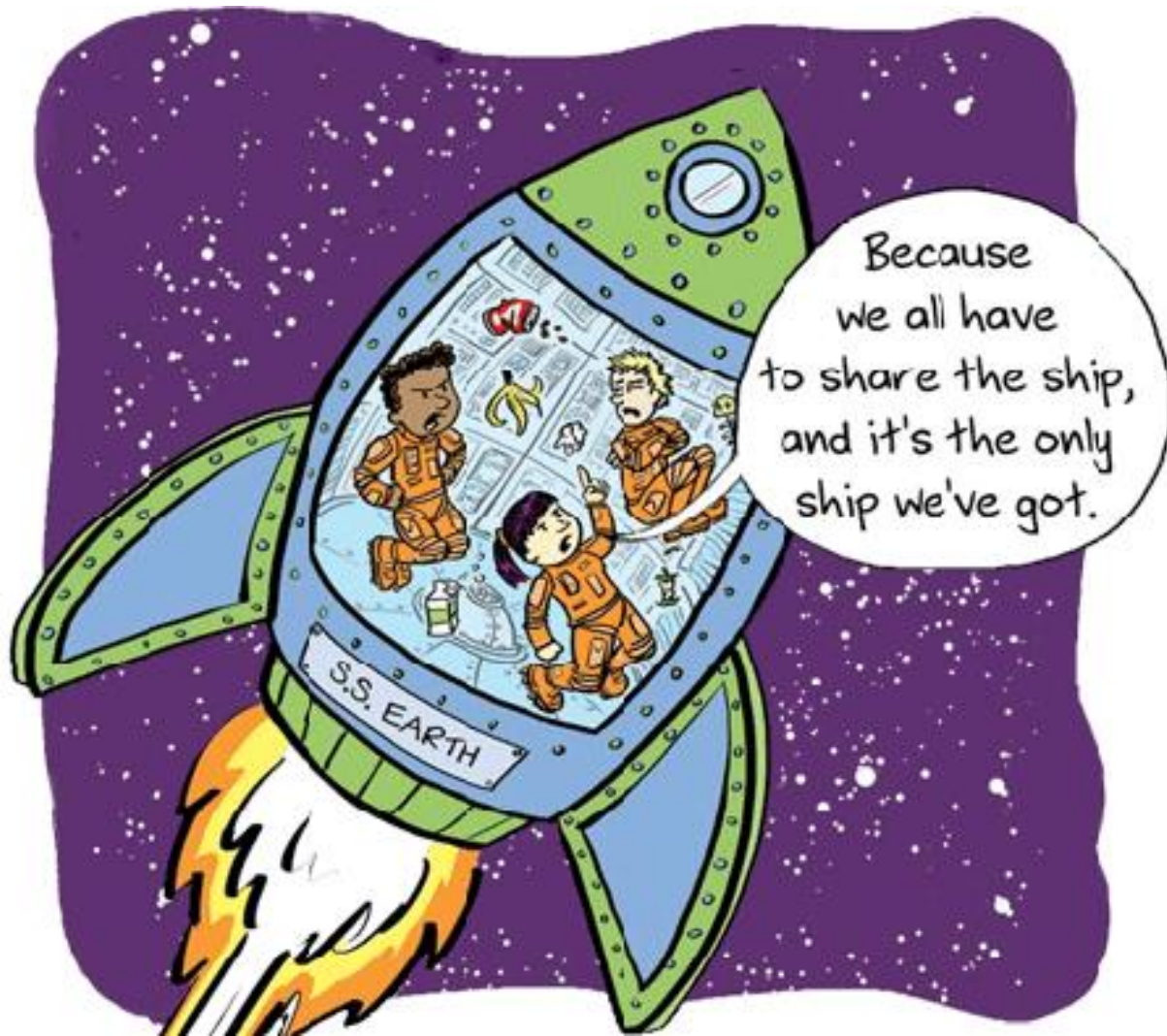
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=177&v=gkD-x6Mk3AI>

Explore more at www.caritas.org.au/cst

DISCUSSION – WHY SHOULD I?



DISCUSSION – WHY SHOULD I?



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WHAT CAN WE DO?

We can choose simpler and more sustainable ways to live our life.

For example, we can:

- Reduce the amount of waste we produce, and make sure to reuse and recycle too
- Switch to renewable energy sources
- Take public transport, walk, run, cycle...
- Plant trees
- Turn off lights when not in use

What other things can you think of?

"There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions." [211]



Photo credits: Erin Johnson

TAKE ACTION: HEARTS 4 CLIMATE

Take part in Caritas Hearts 4 Climate to make your own personal pledge for climate justice and send a clear message to our Prime Minister that, out of love and compassion, you are asking for strong climate action.

Send a 'love letter for climate justice' to our PM.

Go to:

[http://www.caritas.org.au/act/our-common-home/hearts-4-climate](http://www.caritas.org.au/act/our-common-home/ hearts-4-climate)



PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Inspired by St Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of Creation" (also known as the "Canticle of the Sun" or "Canticle of Creatures"), and reflecting on the stories of hope and resilience from three of Caritas Australia's partner organisations.

The response is '**May you be praised**' (*Laudato Si*)

Most high, all powerful, all good Lord!

All praise is Yours, all glory, all honour, and all blessing.





Today we reflect on our brothers and sisters around the world most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice, and especially those who are already experiencing the effects of climate change.



We give thanks for the stories of hope and strength coming from the communities Caritas Australia works with. Communities like the ones in Bangladesh, Australia and the Solomon Islands, where people like Gusto, Rowan and Martina are working to stop the bad effects of climate change.

May you be praised.

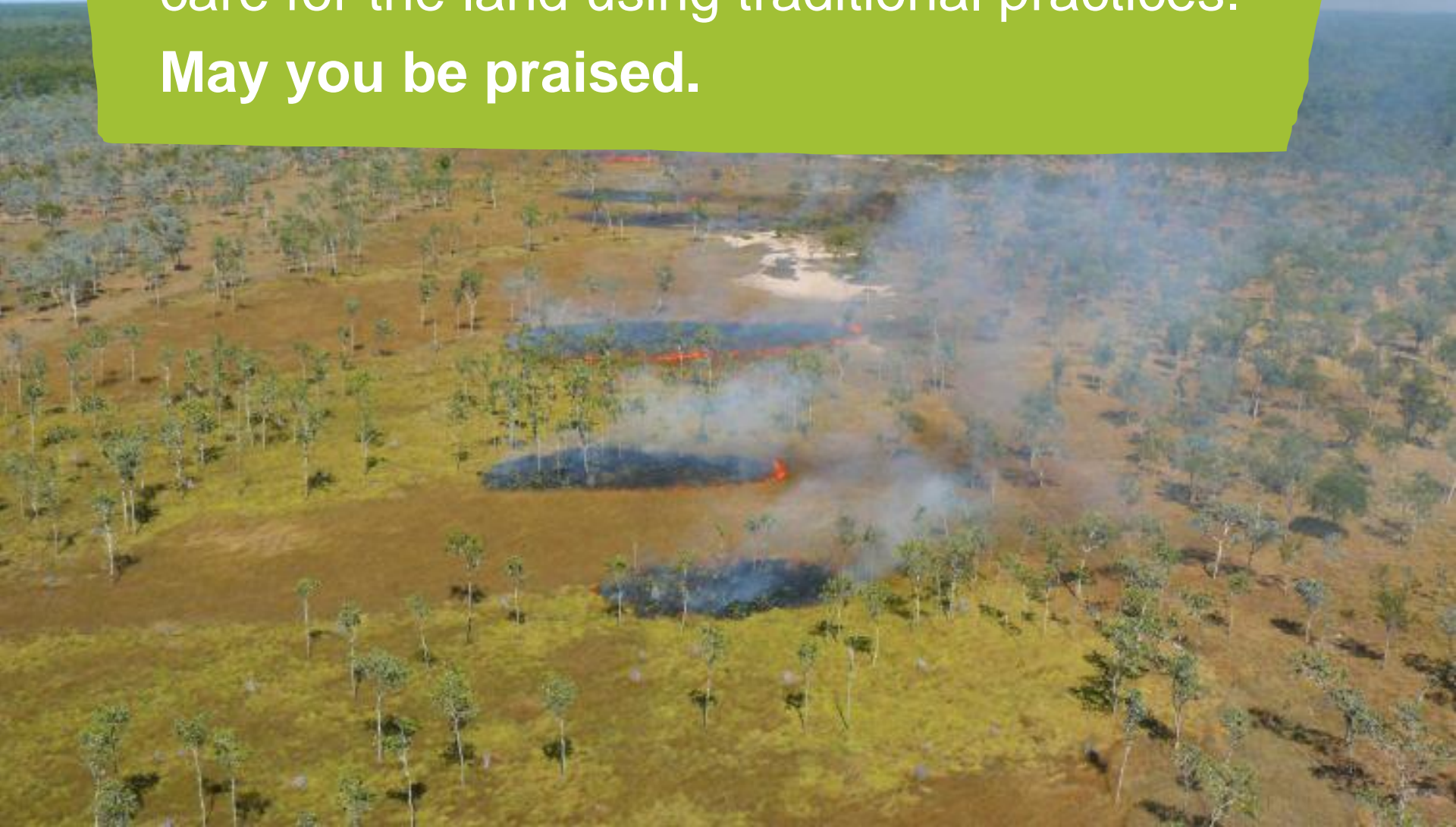
We give thanks for the ancient culture of the First Peoples of Australia, for their deep connection with, and respect for, the land. May we humbly learn from their traditions as we work to care for your creation.

May you be praised.



We give thanks for communities in remote rural Australia, whose owners are now able to care for the land using traditional practices.

May you be praised.





We give you thanks for Gusto's community in Bangladesh, which has rebuilt after cyclone Aila.

We give thanks that, with support from Caritas Australia, the community now has access to clean and safe water, and that their crops are now protected from future disasters.

May you be praised.





We give thanks that they have also learnt ways to use the same fresh water to grow rice and farm fish in one field.

May you be praised.



We give thanks for Martina and her community in the Solomon Islands as they teach children and families their nursery rhymes and songs to prepare for natural disasters.



May they grow in strength and may we grow in our understanding of how our actions can make a difference to the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world.

May you be praised.

We recognise that the effects of climate change are already being felt around the world. We give thanks that, through our actions, we can work towards climate justice. **May you be praised.**





Praise and
bless our
Lord, and
give thanks.
Amen.

End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

Photo credits for prayer and reflection slides:
Caritas Australia, Richard Wainwright,
Kowanyama Land Office



The Catholic agency
for international aid
and development