



Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference

At the end of the Fifth week of Lent.

Lent is coming to an end – and with it, the Bishops' Lenten Appeal for 2012. Over the last couple of weeks, we've provide snapshots of how the Appeal is spent. This week we focus on Grants given to particular dioceses for the support of projects. This is an important aspect of the Appeal, but over the last decade has moved from being the primary focus of the Lenten Campaign. In an effort to build a self-sustaining Church, many Bishops have opted not to apply to the Bishops' Lenten Appeal for small grants, but to allow the focus of the appeal to be on the larger needs of the Church. This is not to say that there are no requests for funding. Many Dioceses choose to self fund their own projects.

A quick scan of the grants approved for 2011 include grants for:

- Early Childhood development centres
- Feeding schemes
- Leadership training
- Marriage courses
- Prison Ministry
- Refugee assistance
- Youth Leadership training
- Catechetical Training
- Care for people with disabilities
- Support for pregnant women

The approved Grants totalled R 864 220 or just over 10% of the Bishops Lenten Appeal.

The Holy Father's Appeal for the Christian Presence in the Holy Land.

Last Year, Southern Africa contributed a total of R 1.1million, approximately the same amount that was raised in 2010. The Origins of the Holy Land Collection date back to the time of St Paul – see 1 Corinthians 16: 1-4. Many of the problems of the Christians in the Holy Land are due to hostility and misunderstanding in an area caught up in vicious cycles of violence and mistrust. In his many appeals to the Church for the Holy Land, Pope Benedict and his predecessors have pointed out the precarious and difficult position of the Christian Presence in the Holy Land. We have been informed that the Good Friday Collection for Christian presence in the Holy Land dropped from R 1.146 Million in 2010 to R1.114 Million in 2011.

Preparing for World Youth Day.

World Youth Day is held every year! Yes – first year in a Diocese on Palm Sunday, then ideally nationally the next year and then Internationally every 3rd year. Due to Rio hosting the World cup in 2014, the International version – Rio2013 will be held a year earlier than normal. Fr Sammy Mabusela, the Youth Chaplain of the SACBC is currently in Rome with the International Team evaluating Madrid 2011 and planning for Rio2013. You can follow him – if you tweet – @WYDSAYOUTH for updates. We have also put together a new website for our WYD preparations – www.wyd.sacbc.org.za which we hope to have live as soon as Fr Sammy is back in SA. Parishes, groups and individuals will be able to subscribe to updates in order to streamline preparations that are a year shorter than normal.

[Click here to read the Holy Father's message for World Youth Day 2012.](#)

ALLELUIA!

Radio Veritas officially launches on Easter Sunday with MIDDAY MASS on its new permanent medium wave frequency 576AM. Immediately afterwards there will be an opportunity for people to phone in. Our schedule includes a variety of wholesome Catholic programming bringing you THE GOOD NEWS. FOR A CHANGE. For information please visit www.radioveritas.co.za or phone 011 663-4700.

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