



Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference

At the end of the Fourth week of Lent.

Information Empowers

Over the last 3 weeks, the Communication Office of the SACBC has given a breakdown of how the Bishops' Lenten Appeal is spent.

This week we will focus on how the Bishops' Lenten Appeal supports the Associate Bodies of the SACBC in their work.

Associate bodies are set up by the Conference to perform a particular task or the Conference recognises a body as an Associate Body by the task it is already doing.

If that sounds like Friday Greek, this might make it easier. Certain tasks are necessary and noble and need support from the Church – but don't necessarily need to be under the direct authority of the Bishops' conference. Using the principle of subsidiarity and competence of local knowledge, the Conference supports bodies doing particular work.

In the SACBC, a number of bodies are formally recognised as Associate Bodies:

- The Catholic Institute of Education (CIE) – R100 000 Grant
- The Catholic Healthcare Association.(CATHCA)
- The Rural Education access programme (REAP) – R85 000 Grant
- The Rural Development Support Programme (RDSP) – R50 000 Grant
- The Leadership Conference of Consecrated Life (LCCL SA) – R10 000 for the Joint Witness programme, R 150 000 for the counter trafficking in persons programme.
- The Southern African Council of Priests (SACOP) – R10 000 Grant
- The Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS)
- The Lumko Missiological Institute
- The Denis Hurley Peace Institute (DHPI) – Peace Building in Africa – R100 000
- Siyabhabha Trust – Caritas South Africa and the Development and Welfare Trust of the SACBC. – a Grant of R 75 000 for Early Childhood learning programmes.

Grants from the Bishops' Lenten Appeal to Associate Bodies generally are given to assist the fundraising function of the Associate Body. Many International Funders will not fund unless there is a local funding component. Some Grants are for particular projects and some are in the form of Emergency Funding.

Grants from the Bishops' Lenten Appeal to Associate Bodies for 2011 totalled R 580 000 or just over 6% of the total raised.

Please visit the websites of the Associate bodies to find out more about their work – this is the Work of your Church!

Preparing to support the Christians in the Holy Land and Middle East

On 1 March 2012, it was announced on Zenit that Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, has sent a letter to the bishops of the world concerning the traditional Good Friday collection for the Holy Land.

“The Son of God made man, after having crossed this land announcing the Kingdom and confirming the word with mighty works, wonders and signs, went up to the Holy City to immolate Himself”, reads the English-language version of the letter. “From that time, every Christian finds himself at home in that City and in that Land. This is possible thanks to the pastors in this place, who, by the will of the Lord Jesus, continue in our day also to gather our brothers and sisters in the faith to celebrate the love of Him Who ‘makes all things new’.

“The Congregation for the Oriental Churches hereby reminds the bishops of the entire world of the unceasing request of Pope Benedict XVI that the mission of the Church in the Holy Places be generously supported.”

The Collection for the Holy Places takes place in the SACBC territory on Good Friday. This is a noble and historical act of solidarity with the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

More can be read here.

For a report on how the Collection for the Holy Land assists the Christians and the Church in the Holy Land – click here.

The implementation of the new Lectionary:

On 8 February we notified that the United States-based publishers of the new Lectionary, Ignatius Press, had instructed the printers to suspend and then restart the printing of the Lectionaries because of layout and binding problems, and that this had led to a delay in their delivery. We also reported that the Paulines' Bookshop expected to receive the new Peoples' Sunday Missals before the end of February and that these could be used in the interim while awaiting the arrival of the new Lectionaries. The new Sunday Missals have not yet arrived, and it is at this stage not possible to predict accurately when they will be available. It is possible that they may arrive before Easter, but prudence indicates that parishes that are wanting to prepare their liturgy, bulletins and other material for Holy Week should rather plan to continue to use the existing Lectionary. We shall continue to inform you of progress. The Liturgy Office will propose a date for implementation of the New Lectionary when we know when to reasonably expect the Lectionary Delivery.

The Liturgy Office will also provide a simple 'Rite for decommissioning the old Lectionary' and a 'Rite for the blessing of the new Lectionary'. The rites provided for the change to the new Missal in November 2011 were successfully implemented and appreciated by those who chose to use them.

International Meeting on World Youth Days

Vatican City, 22 March 2012 (VIS) – The Pontifical Council for the Laity is promoting a meeting of youth pastoral care workers to reflect on World Youth Days (WYD) and prepare for next year's WYD in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The meeting, due to be held in Rocca di Papa near Rome from 29 March to 1 April, will bring together delegates from ninety-eight countries, as well as the organising committees of WYD Madrid 2011 and WYD Rio 2013.

A communique released this morning by the Pontifical Council for the Laity explains that this will be "an important moment of reflection for the pastoral care workers" who number "more than 300, representing 45 communities, associations and Catholic youth movements".

Work will begin on 29 March with a welcome address from Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity. The rest of the day will be dedicated to a study of organisational and pastoral aspects of WYD Madrid 2011, and the fruits it has yielded throughout the world. Participants will include Cardinal Antonio Maria Rouco Varela, archbishop of Madrid, and Yago de la Cierva and Fr. Gregorio Rolgan, respectively executive director and secretary general of WYD Madrid 2011.

On Friday 30 March attention will turn to Rio de Janeiro. The challenges and expectations of next year's WYD will be presented by Archbishop Orani Joao Tempesta O. Cist. of Sao Sebastiao do Rio de Janeiro; Msgr. Eduardo Pinheiro da Silva, president of the Brazilian Episcopal Commission for Youth; Fr. Carlos Savio, head of the youth office of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil, and the WYD Rio 2013 organising committee.

Saturday 31 March will be dedicated to reflection on the "formation of young people; a mission priority for the Church", with contributions from Bishop Josef Clemens, secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, and Fr. Fabio Attard, counsellor general of the Salesians for youth pastoral care. On Palm Sunday 1 April, which also marks twenty-seventh diocesan World Youth Day, the delegates will participate in Mass presided by Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square.

- Fr Sammy will be attending on behalf of the SACBC.

