



JUNE 2011

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MIGRANT & REFUGEE OFFICE

News

The official newsletter of the Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office

Special Interest

- 97th World day of Migrants and Refugees to be celebrated on 28 August 2011
- New ACMRO Website
- Message from Bishop Hanna
- 6 Million migrants call Australia home
- New research highlights refugee contribution

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28 August 2011

ONE HUMAN FAMILY

97th WORLD DAY OF
MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

Migrant kit ready to help celebrate
Migrant and Refugee Week 22-28 August 2011

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE



New ACMRO Website

This month the ACMRO unveiled our new website which can be found at **www.acmro.catholic.org.au**. The website features much of the information that could be found on our old website and also many new features. On the website you will find photos, publications, media statements, newsletters, our migrant and refugee kit as well as our prayer for one human family which is available in eight different languages.

Also out this month, is our Migrant and Refugee Kit which helps diocesans and schools to celebrate the 97th world day of migrants and refugees. Many of you will receive copies over the coming days or alternatively you can download the kit from our website. This year the Kit reflects on the theme of "one human family" which is very fitting in a world which is increasingly getting smaller. The kit focuses on Catholic Church teachings in regards to the phenomenon of migration both voluntary and compelled. The kit also contains a number of statistics which can help to put things into perspective.

The first six days of the week (Monday to Saturday) are each assigned a theme related to migrants and refugees. The themes are: The Sacrament of Unity, Global Migration, Welcome and Solidarity, Church Migration Principles, Migrant Workers and their Families, and Migrants with Disabilities. Each theme is accompanied by a relevant scripture, educational information, activities or thoughts for reflection. The week concludes with the Sunday Homily prepared by Fr Gabriele F. Bentoglio. C.S.

There are many people who contributed greatly to the kit this year and we would sincerely like to thank Jacqueline Chan, Larissa Layanto and Phung Mai, who volunteered much of their time and creativity to develop the design and layout of the kit. Thanks to Frank Stuart and Colleen Malone and ACU for supporting the design work for this project. Thanks also to Patricia Mowbray of the Secretariat for Pastoral Life who provided a wonderful contribution on migrants with disabilities. Thanks to Glenn Flannagan of Companion House for providing the refugee experience activity. Many thanks to all those who contributed translations of the prayer for one human family. Special thanks also to Fr Gabriele Bentoglio C.S for contributing the Sunday homily. And last but not least, many thanks to Bishop Hanna for his message.

This is now the sixth edition of the ACMRO newsletter and we are very interested to know what our reader think and what they would like to read in the future.

Our original plan was to create a newsletter which would contribute to the wider debate on domestic and global migration issues, particularly those affecting Australia. This is still very much our vision and we would be very interested to hear from anyone who would like to make a contribution to our newsletter, it would be very much appreciated.

Please send all feedback to our research and information officer Joe Moloney, at joe.moloney@acmro.catholic.org.au.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr Maurizio Pettenà CS

National Director

Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office

Consultant to the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant People

Message from Bishop Hanna for the 97th world day of migrants and refugees

Dear Friends,

Peace and blessings to all.

Once again the Church in Australia prepares to celebrate Migrant and Refugee Week as an expression of our multicultural richness. This is now the fourth year we have prepared a kit to help celebrate as a community, the diversified cultural experiences which are so much part and parcel of the Catholic Church in Australia. ***“One human family”*** is the theme of Pope Benedict XVI’s message on the occasion of the 97th World Day of Migrants and Refugees that will be celebrated on Sunday the 28th August 2011.

The theme of one human family invites us to reflect on our sense of unity in the world. The global migration phenomenon today reflects the increasingly interconnected world we live in. Globalisation reveals many inconsistencies; open markets but not frontiers; no boundaries for information and capital, but restrictions on the circulation of people (EMCC, 4). Australia too reveals inconsistencies in our migration policy; free movement between Australia and New Zealand, essentially open borders for the highly skilled and tourists, but enforced mandatory detention on a number of asylum seekers who are left with no other option than a boat in order to find a sustainable livelihood.



We also witness global inequality in the standards of living afforded to different nations and between people within nations. This element is a significant factor contributing to the flow of both voluntary and forced migrants. However, the phenomenon of migration in promoting labour market efficiencies and increasing remittances has a large role to play in creating more equality and unity in the world. In addition, through their abilities and experiences, migrants actively contribute positively to Australia’s cultural riches and economic prosperity.



Every Sunday, Mass in Australia is celebrated in over 30 languages. Recent estimates find that 29% of Church attendees in Australia are from non-English speaking backgrounds. This figure is testament to the success that Australian parishes are having in welcoming migrants into their community. Perhaps the success achieved in Australia can be attributed to a strong sense of mateship which the Australian people have always extended to those in need and those seeking a new life.

We can all be very proud of our nation and of how far it has come. From our traditional owners to the first fleet, to the multicultural society we see today. Those who have arrived first have always had to welcome others. The demographics of our Nation have changed very much and will continue to change in the future. By protecting values which uphold the dignity of human life for all, we will ensure Australia remains prosperous and peaceful for future generations who will visit and reside here. We are in the hands of God.

Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI reminds us of the ***“profound link between all human beings”*** whereby our Father in Heaven calls on us ***“to recognise each other as brothers and sisters in Christ”***.

This is the truth behind migration; when we welcome migrants, we welcome our brothers and sisters; when we lock up asylum seekers, we lock up our brothers and sisters; when we exclude foreigners, we tell our brothers and sisters we would rather they live out their lives in misery, than live among us. Would we respond to our own family members the same way if they were in the same precarious situation?

We cannot look upon the tragic circumstances which befall other members of the human race feeling sorrow and despair without doing anything. ... ***We are all witnesses of the burden of suffering, the dislocation and the aspirations that accompany the flow of migrants***” (CV, 5). To be part of one human family will sometimes require us to walk beside those who suffer and share our land and our wealth. As children of God we are called to ease the suffering of our brothers and sisters.

“Solidarity means taking responsibility for those in trouble. For Christians, the migrant is not merely an individual to be respected in accordance with the norms established by law, but a person whose presence challenges them and whose needs become an obligation for their responsibility. “What have you done to your brother?” (cf. Gn 4:9). The answer should not be limited to what is imposed by law, but should be made in the manner of solidarity.”

Sources: Reid, Stephen, Dixon, R. & Connolly, N. (2010). See, I am doing a new thing! A report on the 2009 survey of Catholic Religious Institutes in Australia. Mulgrave: John Garratt Publishing.

UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS Message of Pope John Paul II for World Migration Day, 1996

United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report 2009.

Much media attention is given to irregular maritime arrivals; the question we have to ask is why asylum seekers have become such a disruptive issue for Australians? Indeed, **all this attention is on a very small number of people**, but blown out of proportion due to common misconceptions and because they present a valuable arena for political parties to gain or lose votes.

Often these asylum seekers seem to have become the “ready to use” scapegoat to proclaim a sense of national security with the consequent duty to protect our borders from them. Let us reflect as a nation; where do we find our sense of national identity? Is it to be found in the protection of borders and at what cost? Or is it to be found by actively promoting justice and truth for those who cross our seas in search of refuge?

The United Nations report that where a person is born is the single most significant determinant of human development outcomes. Yet we do not choose where we are born. **We can thank God for the privilege to live in Australia.** It is a blessing given by God that is not granted at the exclusion of all others, but rather one which can be used for the benefit of all.

By God’s grace our nation has been blessed by the numerous people who have made Australia home. As we look at one another, we know that behind each one, there is a journey. A journey always begins with hope: of a better life, of a new land, of new possibilities, of new relationships. We Disciples of Christ have the mission to keep this hope alive in the heart of all those who seek new heavens and new earth (Rev 21:1). This migrant and refugee week is a celebration of a journey of people from the most varied and diverse countries, cultures, and life experiences, living in solidarity as one human family.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Most Rev Gerard Hanna DD

Delegate for Migrants and Refugees

Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life



New research highlights refugee contribution

On the 17th June 2011, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, released new research that shows refugees in Australia are likely embrace work opportunities in regional areas, display entrepreneurial qualities and undertake volunteer work as part of a significant contribution to society.

Mr Bowen said the ***Economic, Social And Civic Contributions Of First And Second Generation Humanitarian Entrants*** report by Professor Graeme Hugo was the first comprehensive study that also looked at second-generation refugees in Australia.

'While many refugees do encounter difficulties in the early years of their settlement here, this research shows that refugees make an important contribution to Australia in areas including social engagement, workforce participation and business ownership.

'For example, it finds that humanitarian entrants are increasingly settling in rural and regional areas, which creates social and economic benefits for local communities.'

The research indicates that humanitarian entrants make a significant contribution to volunteering, and provides evidence that a higher proportion of refugees display entrepreneurial qualities compared with other migrant groups.

Professor Hugo also found that humanitarian entrants provided a unique contribution to the economy by taking on low-skilled jobs not filled by other workers, filling important shortages in the labour market.

'With the support of Australia's world-class settlement services, most humanitarian entrants are able to adjust effectively over time and eventually match Australian levels of economic and social contribution, especially those in the second generation,' Mr Bowen said.

The report is based on Census data, interviews conducted with hundreds of humanitarian entrants, and in-depth discussions with more than 70 key stakeholders in the refugee, employment and business sectors across Australia.

A full copy of the report and a summary of key findings are available on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's website.

See: [Research Publications](#) > Economic, Civic and Social Contributions of First and Second Generation Humanitarian Entrants

Source: Media Release <http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/cb/2011/cb166659.htm>
Last update: Friday, 17 June 2011 at 14:25 AEST

Australia now home to 6 million migrants

The Australian Bureau of Statistics reports almost 6 million migrants, born in over 200 countries, live in Australia and 27% of Australia's resident population were born overseas, as at June 2010.

The ABS report people born in the United Kingdom continued to be the largest group of overseas-born residents, accounting for 1.2 million people. The next largest group was born in New Zealand with 544,000 people, followed by China (380,000 people), India (341,000) and Italy (216,000).

Over the last decade, the proportion of those born in the UK declined from 5.9% of Australia's population in 2000 to 5.3% in 2010. In contrast, the proportions increased for people born in New Zealand (from 1.9% to 2.4%), China (from 0.8% to 1.7%) and India (from 0.5% to 1.5%).

The majority (76%) of overseas-born residents were of working age, 15–64 years at June 2010. Migrants born in Asia, America and Africa had proportionally larger young (0–14 years) and working age (15–64 years) populations compared to those from Europe.

In 2009–10, net overseas migration contributed the greatest number of people to the most populous states: New South Wales with a net of 66,000 persons, followed by Victoria (60,400) and Queensland (39,700). The Northern Territory had the lowest contribution with a net of 1,300 persons.

In 2008–09, the net contribution of international students to the Australian population reached a record high of 122,400 students, contributing 27% of Australia's total population growth for the year. The top three countries of birth of these students were from India with a net of 43,000 students followed by China (24,700 students) and Nepal (10,500).

Victoria recorded the highest net contribution of international students in 2008–09 (43,600 people), followed by New South Wales (40,400) and Queensland (18,300).

More information on migrants living in Australia, data on overseas and interstate migration, or international students who have contributed to net overseas migration estimates can be found in ***Migration, Australia 2009–10 (cat. no. 3412.0)***, available for free download from www.abs.gov.au

Media notes:

Net overseas migration (NOM) is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia.

Net is the number of arrivals less the number of departures.

Source: ABS Media release 16 June 2011, www.abs.gov.au



Catholic Institute of Sydney for Theology and Ministry

A Member Institute of the Sydney College of Divinity

MS 594 Issues in Missiology: Perilous Journeys - the Migration of Peoples Today

Semester 2, 2011 with Sandie Cornish



Why Study this Course?

Migration is more than an economic question - it is a fundamental moral challenge of our age. While much policy debate on human mobility is framed by economic self-interest and international law, Catholic Social Teaching offers a more wholistic ethical framework for understanding the phenomenon and responding justly. Understanding this tradition will help Christians and others of good will to reframe the debate.

Who is it For?

Students of theology (Bachelor of Theology, Graduate Certificate in Arts, Graduate Diploma in Arts, Master of Arts, Master of Divinity).

Priests, pastoral workers, teachers, catechists, members of social justice groups and migrant ministries may take the course on a non award or audit basis for personal and professional development.



Sandie Cornish

Sandie Cornish B Ec (Nctle), Lic soc sci (PUG), M Pub Pol (UNE), is a specialist in Catholic Social Teaching with more than twenty years experience in social justice ministry at diocesan and national levels in Australia and in the Asia-Pacific region. She has worked in the International Office of the Jesuit Refugee Service and is currently a member of the Jesuit Conference Asia Pacific Migration Task Force.

What Is Included?

- A brief history of migration in the modern period
- The development of international legal frame-works concerning human mobility, and their limitations
- The development of Catholic Social Teaching concerning human mobility
- Church responses to people on the move
- Towards a theology of migration
- Contemporary challenges in responding across the migration spectrum
- Morality and migration in a pluralist world

Purpose?

- Much policy debate concerning migration is framed by international law and economic self-interest, marginalizing the moral and ethical claims of people on the move. The tradition of Catholic Social Teaching provides an alternative ethical framework for discourse on issues across the whole migration spectrum ranging from freely chosen movement to seeking asylum, temporary labour migration, economic and environmental migration and trafficking in persons.
- Familiarity with this part of Catholic teaching will assist church workers and concerned Christians to respond consistently and compassionately to the needs of people on the move. It is possible to move beyond a focus on seeking to apply legal distinctions and categories to mixed flows of people and to focus instead on the demands of human dignity and the global common good. Participants will be equipped to reframe the debate rather than accepting the currently defined space for public discussion.
- Reflection on the emerging contemporary theology of migration will assist pastoral and social justice workers to better integrate their faith experience and their practical engagement with people on the move. Participants will have the opportunity to articulate their encounter with God through the phenomenon of migration.

**3 Weekends****13 - 14 August****10 -11 September****15 -16 October****Location:****99 Albert Road****Strathfield****NSW 2135****Fees**

Audit \$500

Graduate \$1250

\$10 Student Association Fee per semester

The government loan system for students of Private Higher Education Providers (FEE-HELP) is available. FEE-HELP pays the tuition fee, accumulating as a debt payable by the student through the income taxation system.

REGISTRATION CLOSES 1 July, 2011**For information on the course contact:****Sandie Cornish mobile 0468 865 766****Sandie.Cornish@gmail.com****For registration contact:****The Registry****Catholic Institute of Sydney****Telephone: (02) 9752 9501****Email: cisinfo@cis.catholic.edu.au****Web: www.cis.catholic.edu.au**

8 June 2011 (Zenit.org)

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Vatican press office, has reflected on Southern Sudan – set to become the 54th African nation. The Jesuit noted that the Sudanese are coming out of a more than 20-year bloody and cruel civil war.

“Something important is at stake. We cannot remain indifferent to the treats of the establishment of Sharia in the North and to the military attacks against the Abyei region, a new provocation to war” he said.

“we cannot remain indifferent to the sufferings of so many exiled persons who have returned from the North to the South or who now have fled from Abyei, because of fear of hunger, of the sickness in the rainy season, which is about to begin” said Fr Lombardi.

“Uniting a people that is not free of tribal division and that is extremely poor, „ we realise why the Bishops of the place call urgently for international solidarity” he said.

8 June 2011 (UN News Service)

Pope Benedict XVI and the United Nations’ lead anti-crime official have met to discuss ways to expand common efforts in the battles against drugs, crime and other social and health challenges throughout the world.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said in a press statement that its Executive Director Yury Fedotov and the Pope focused on “drug prevention, the promotion of healthy lifestyles, crime eradication, human trafficking and migrant smuggling” during their meeting at the Vatican.

“With over a billion followers, the Catholic Church—as with all religions—has a special link to people across the globe and is in a unique position to spread key messages in helping prevent drug use and crime,” Mr. Fedotov said.

Mr. Fedotov “noted the need to further the links between the efforts of the Catholic Church and UNODC in reaching out to the world’s most vulnerable whose lives are adversely affected by criminals every day, particularly in the developing regions of Africa and South America,” UNODC said.

The Pope and Mr. Fedotov also “discussed the importance of inter-faith dialogue in a bid to look at root causes of terrorism across the world.”

21 June 2011

In a Vatican Radio interview, Archbishop Antonio Maria Vegliò, President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People spoke on the 60th anniversary of the founding of UNHCR.

“In the beginning the UNHCR was exclusively European oriented, dealing with 19 million uprooted citizens, displaced before 1951 related to the world war. The first broadening was the situation of Hungarian refugees in 1956 during the uprising. The following years, different situations like Algeria, Cambodia and Tibet, obliged the High Commissioner to intervene in other continents” he said.

“This has led to a situation that UNHCR became responsible for refugees worldwide. This mandate has been expanded by the General Assembly of the United Nations to groups of people who were not covered, like stateless people and persons displaced by military conflicts. During the past few years UNHCR took responsibility for certain groups of internally displaced people, namely those displaced by military conflicts or human rights violations” he said.

Archbishop Vegliò said “One has to remark that the political climate also has changed. There is a hardening attitude of countries so that it seems that refugees are the problem and not the reasons why they have to flee.”

