

none of us can think we
are exempt from concerns
for the poor and for
social justice

POPE FRANCIS (Evangelii Gaudium, n. 201)

OUTREACH
for
YOUNG PEOPLE



OPPORTUNITIES in SOCIAL JUSTICE

Young Australians enjoy the opportunity to get involved in social justice activities and make a practical difference in our world today. Below, we have listed some of the social outreach initiatives that are currently operating within the Archdiocese. You might like to consider contacting one of these groups to talk about how you can engage young people from your parish in these public works of service.

ASPLEYCARE (Aspley)

Volunteer with this parish-based group which organizes local events, transport, emergency relief and home help to those in need. You can also volunteer to give practical help and support to pregnant women.

www.ourladyandstjympnaparish.com/aspley-care.html

BLIND EYE MINISTRIES (South Brisbane)

Volunteer at the drop in centre and help connect with some of the most vulnerable in our society, particularly the homeless.

blindeyeministries.com

CANOSSA HOUSE (Oxley)

Volunteer to assist with the ongoing care of aged residents and patients.

<http://www.canossa.org.au/volunteers/>

CAPUCHIN MINISTRY TO THE POOR (South Brisbane)

Volunteer to help serve the poor on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7-9pm.

www.southbrisbanestmarys.org.au

CARITAS

Assist by speaking at parishes for Caritas' Project Compassion during Lent.

www.caritas.org.au

CATHOLIC MISSION

Assist by speaking in schools for Socktober during World Mission Month in October.

www.catholicmission.org.au

CENTACARE

Volunteer with Mission to Seafarers; volunteer with Catholic Prison Ministry; provide court support and assistance to released prisoners; become a pastoral carer with Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care (CPPC); visit the sick, aged or disabled; assist with facilitating recreational activities including art & crafts; support clients to attend outings; and providing assistance in transport service.

<http://centacarebrisbane.net.au/get-involved/volunteer>

EDMUND RICE CAMPS

Volunteer to be a 'big buddy' and become a child's mentor, positive role model, and best mate on a recreational camp for kids coming from disadvantaged families.

www.edmundricecampsbrisbane.org/events

OPPORTUNITIES in SOCIAL JUSTICE

EDMUND RICE CENTRE

Become involved in awareness, advocacy and action for refugees; indigenous peoples & reconciliation; eco-justice and more.

www.erc.org.au

HANDS UP AND DAY RESPITE

Volunteer to assist adults 18 years and older who have a mild to moderate disability through the Leisure Access Program, Community Volunteering Program, or Day Respite Program.

www.hand.org.au/community.asp

HOLY SPIRIT CARE SERVICES (Carseldine)

Volunteer to assist those in residential care aged care and independent retirement by helping therapy staff with activity programs, pastoral care, support services and administration tasks.

www.holyspirit.com.au

LITTLE KING'S MOVEMENT (Buranda)

Volunteer to help those who have a disability by providing transport, companionship, musical entertainment, cooking & kitchen duties, office work and more.

<http://thelittlekingmovement.org.au>

ORANGE SKY LAUNDRY

Volunteer to have positive and genuine conversations with the homeless whilst their clothes are being washed.

www.orangeskylaundry.com.au/get_involved

ROSIES YOUTH MISSION INC.

Volunteer to assist in the operation of street food vans for the homeless.

<http://rosies.org.au/what-we-do/>

SISTERS OF CHARITY SOUP KITCHEN (Fortitude Valley)

Volunteer at the soup kitchen to help feed the poor and disadvantaged.

www.truelocal.com.au/business/missionaries-of-charity/fortitude-valley

ST PAUL DE CHARTRES RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE (Boronia Heights)

Volunteer to engage with aged care residents through friendly conversation, assistance in reading, writing and with special projects.

www.spcagedcare.org.au/volunteers

ST VINCENT DE PAUL YOUTH PROGRAMS

Volunteer in a range of programs such as Buddies Days, SENSE Youth Mentoring, Kids and SENSE youth camps, and the Soccer Stars program.

vinniesqld.wixsite.com/vinniesqldschoools/programs

*NB: some volunteer opportunities are only available to over 18's

SIX TIPS FOR JOY IN SERVICE

1. DECIDE ON A FORM OF SERVICE

Invite young people to discern a need in your local area or through an international partner. It's good to start small but start somewhere. Decide on a clear and manageable task that the group is interested in. Young people should be able to organise, sustain and lead the task.

2. PUT OUT A CALL TO ACTION

Invite other young people to be involved through announcements and personal invitation. Emphasise that this is a task that they are specially needed and called for.

3. PREPARE AND DE-BRIEF

Ensure that the young people receive some preparation before their service and then allow them to jump in. Once the form of service has been undertaken, have a de-brief session to allow for reflection – What was each person's experience? What feelings, thoughts, emotions arose during or after the service? What are our motivations for serving? How did we work together? Were there moments of love, grace, suffering, challenge? Was God present? Over the time of service, keep coming back to 'Why are we doing this?' 'Are we changing?'

4. EMPHASISE RELATIONSHIPS

Any form of service is not just about what is done, but about what relationships are formed and developed. In other words, we're not just doing something, but ultimately we are offering ourselves in love and being loved.

5. PRAY AND REFLECT

Allow for space for prayer, contemplation and reflection. Depending on the age of the group, this can come in different forms. Pray before and/or after each act of service. It's good to choose a common prayer to

use each time. Or to choose a saint that will guide the work and whose example will be a model and inspiration for the group.

6. RETREAT AND ACT AGAIN

As the group matures in its work, think about holding or participating in a retreat. This will allow for deeper reflection on the experiences in service and how it has affected each person. It will also allow the group to evaluate its activities and what it is being called to in the future.

A FINAL INSIGHT...

"If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, I gain nothing" (1 Cor 13:3). ...My deep personal sharing in the needs and sufferings of others becomes a sharing of my very self with them... I must be personally present in my gift' (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* 34). Christian service is simply an act of love – freely given – in imitation of Jesus himself and an expression of God's love. Being involved in social justice and service is ultimately about expressing this love more deeply. But in order to give it, we must first receive it. It's important to affirm the service of young people. But it's also important to gently help them see, through their experience, that, like those they serve, they are in need too. None of us are perfect and none of us can correct all the injustice in the world. But young people will look for answers! The answer we give is God: only God can end all injustice. We can only contribute to God's mission by being more fully immersed in God's love – through retreats, liturgies, sacraments, service, relationships... This insight must be gently and lovingly modelled and discussed. Young people need good spiritual guides.

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