



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Office of the President

30 June 2009

Dear Friends,

Re: 2009 Social Justice Sunday Statement

And You Will Be My Witnesses: Young people and justice
Issued by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated this year on 27th September. I am writing to inform you about the Catholic Bishops' 2009 Social Justice Sunday Statement and how parishes, schools, Congregations and other organisations and groups can access this document.

The Statement will be launched in the week prior to Social Justice Sunday. Copies of the Statement can be ordered now from the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council by using the attached order form. Additionally, the Statement will be available for download on the websites of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (www.acbc.catholic.org.au) and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) from the week of the launch. In the attached summary sheet there is a suggested newsletter entry that can be used by parishes, schools and groups as Social Justice Sunday approaches.

When Pope Benedict XVI visited Australia for World Youth Day, he left us with the challenge:

How are you using the gifts you have been given, the 'power' which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you? What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come? What difference will you make?

We are encouraged to witness the commitment of young people to the faith and the passion they bring to their work for justice in the world. We know also that many young people can face situations of injustice that prevent them from taking up the challenge presented by the Holy Father. The 2009 Social Justice Sunday Statement considers how we are all called to encourage, support and enable young people to meet this challenge.

I commend this Statement to you and would welcome your part in its promotion.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Philip Wilson

Archbishop Philip E. Wilson
President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference