



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

## Fit For Mission Takatū Ki Te Mau I Te Rongo Pai

*Are we ready to be Christians full time, showing our commitment by word and deed?*

*October 2015 Newsletter*

[www.cdafitformission.weebly.com](http://www.cdafitformission.weebly.com)

*Pope Francis*

**How is your parish *Fit For Mission* project coming along? What has your parish decided to take on as an outreach missionary activity? We are waiting on your reports – hopefully all parishes will have decided upon a project and will have begun to implement it by the end of this year. (Send details to [patl@cda.org.nz](mailto:patl@cda.org.nz))**

- **Pope Francis has designated next year as the Year of Mercy. As you decide what to take on as your FFM project look at the Corporal works of Mercy: to feed the hungry; to give drink to the thirsty; to clothe the naked; to welcome the stranger ;to heal the sick; to visit the imprisoned; to bury the dead.** The Year of Mercy will be incorporated into the Pastoral Plan as we individually and as communities reach out in mercy to serve those in need.



### Refugee resettlement - A Fit for Mission project for your parish?

As you may be aware, Cardinal John Dew was in the media some weeks ago talking about the generous response from our faith communities to support the resettlement of refugees. People have offered to put refugees, individuals and families in their spare rooms, and have offered to help with goods, language and other assistance.

The New Zealand Bishops have asked that Catholics who wish to help with refugee resettlements follow the appropriate process. Immigration New Zealand is responsible for the selection of refugees coming to the country, and for the six week programme at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre when they arrive. Once they leave the Centre, the **Red Cross** is responsible (through its government-funded Refugee Programme) for providing support and for the coordination of voluntary assistance in the 12 months after arrival.

Volunteers are required to complete a training programme prior to being placed with an incoming refugee family. **Red Cross** provides training courses for them. Interested parishioners will need to do the training.

Perhaps a group of parishioners could do the training together and then support a refugee family after they move into a nearby community. *(see details overleaf)*

## Parish action

A parish might be able to offer the Auckland **Red Cross** office comprehensive support for a refugee family, including some or all of the following: a house to rent, trained volunteers, friendship, goods, and possibly even a job. Could the parish pay the rent on a house for a year? Is there a parishioner who would make their rental available at a minimal rent for this purpose? Does the parish have access to a suitable building?

A parish might also be able to:

- Raise awareness of the need for volunteers, and provide details of the necessary training programmes for volunteers, what it involves and the time commitment.
- Assist the local efforts already in place for refugees, as these may struggle with the additional numbers in the emergency intake. The additional 750 Syrian refugees outside the planned quota intake, although staggered, will put pressure on the systems already in place.
- Encourage Catholic (and other) employers to consider providing a job for a refugee.
- Offer ongoing friendship and encouragement and support, so that when Red Cross conclude their formal period of support (12 months after arrival) the individuals and families have support networks that they can call on, given they don't always have extended family here.

Parishes could also consider whether they could offer to **Red Cross** to support quota refugees, not just those in the emergency Syrian intake. The support coordinated by the **Red Cross** is only for the refugee's first year in New Zealand. General community support and friendship will be very important after that time

## Volunteer job description:

A training programme (up to seven 3-hour sessions) is required for this, and volunteers commit to a particular refugee family or individual. Volunteers work together in teams. The volunteer role includes participation in the following:

- setting up a home for a refugee family/individual before they arrive
- helping the family enrol with schools and doctors
- budgeting, shopping and how to use an ATM machine
- showing the family how to use public transportation
- social visits, and generally explaining how things work in New Zealand

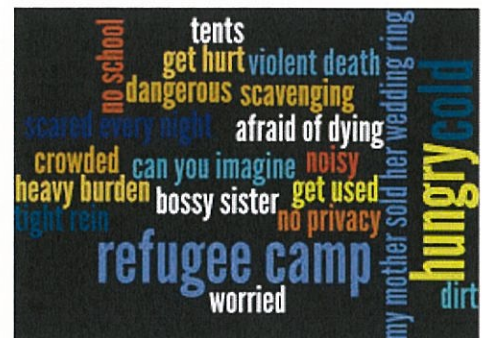
Time commitment will depend on volunteer availability and the family's needs

## Volunteer Training

All volunteers are required to complete a comprehensive, multi-day training programme prior to being placed with an incoming refugee family. Training occurs every two months – usually between 5 – 7 sessions in the evenings or on the weekends. After training you will be placed with a team of volunteers and will start preparing for the next group of arrivals. A volunteer placement is for up to 6 months of support.

Each training programme covers a range of topics including:

- introduction to the refugee experience
- role of the refugee support volunteer
- teams and teamwork
- refugee health, well-being and education
- key support services : culture



Next training is at 33 Lambie Drive,  
Manukau

Weds from 28 Oct for 5 weeks 6.30-9pm:  
Sat 28 Nov 9.30am-2pm, and  
Wed 2 Dec 6.30-9pm

Contact:

[robert.munnik@redcross.org.nz](mailto:robert.munnik@redcross.org.nz)

09 621 0013

*The diocesan co-ordinator CJ David is away at the moment, so any enquiries are to go to Pat Lythe until his return on 2 November.*

## Pastoral Areas for Mission

- Work collaboratively across community boundaries
- Build stronger links among schools, parishes, and families

## Leadership for Mission

- Promote shared and co-responsible leadership among clergy and laity
- Acknowledge and celebrate lay leadership

As you can see the second and third parts of the *Fit For Mission* Pastoral Plan talk about Pastoral areas joining together for mission and shared responsibility between clergy and lay people. Out in the West, priests and people have been meeting in a bigger group – as a deanery and region. *From Fr Mathew V.....How the West was Won!*

Pat Lythe asked me to write the story of the West as we have been coming together as a deanery since the Year of Faith in 2012-2013. The priests of the deanery wanted to involve lay people in planning for and celebrating the Year of Faith. We formed a YOF Committee made up of one lay representative from each of our eight parishes and a few deanery priests. The Committee planned for the celebrations. Practically we had an event/presentation in every month.

There was a lot of enthusiasm and joy among the participants as they looked at the Year of Faith from three perspectives: understanding the Documents of Vat II, the sacraments, and the Church. The Year of Faith marked the golden Jubilee of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Firstly Fr. Pat Brady took us through the historical background leading up to the Council and the Council documents. In the second Phase we spent time as a region understanding the sacraments and thus coming to a deeper appreciation for our faith. There were 4 presentations on the Sacraments and the fifth one on the Sacred Liturgy.

In the third phase we looked at the *The Marks of the Church, Church History from Pentecost to Vatican II* and the *Creed*. Besides Bishop Pat and priests, we also received help from our well talented and qualified lay people in giving the presentations. Our appreciations go to Lyn Smith, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Von Cassidy and Susan Healy. The Year of Faith concluding Holy Mass for the whole region was held in Holy Cross School Grounds, Henderson. An exhibition featured exhibits from each of the eight parishes of the Western region helped us to understand the history of each of our parishes. The refreshments at the end of the celebration was a beautiful time to share our friendship with each other. We also appreciated the contributions of the youth who made presentations in all 3 events. One of our aims is to recognise the contributions of the Youth to the Church and to the west in particular.

The second event that the deanery organized was the presentation of the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* – The Joy of The Gospel. We made three presentation each of which were made by lay people and priests. A good collaboration!!!

As the Church gave us more occasions to celebrate our faith, we kept changing the name of our Committee. Now call ourselves the Year of Consecrated Life Committee. In this year of the Consecrated Life we were aware that God blessed our region with 5 religious orders/congregations living and working here. We gave each Congregation/Order a day to share the story of their founder, charism, ministry and life with us. The Religious Comboree was an occasion to listen to these stories. These events gave the religious a look at their own call as gift and mission. The concluding celebrations will be on Sun, 14 November.

We can say that this way of coming together, though time consuming and at times hard to cope with other demands, helps us to be a people known to each other and have a sense of belonging to a deanery extending from Helensville to Pt. Chevalier to include Massey, Henderson, Te Atatu, Glen Eden, Blockhouse Bay and Avondale. It is our desire to continue with this animation in the deanery and change the name of the committee into the 'Year of celebration' that the Church gives us. **(Why not change it to the *Fit For Mission* committee? - the Pastoral Plan asks all to collaborate for Mission not just to build community? PL)**

The Western region is the smallest deanery/region in the diocese. But in other places get together with your neighbouring parishes in pastoral areas or in groupings which work for you. Get to know each other and plan for mission. Three parishes in the East – **St Heliers, Glendowie and Orakei** have already begun this process, inviting school principals too.



The banner above was made by and for the Parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Epsom.

**Praying to share God’s Mercy**

A Reading from *Matthew 25:34-40*, Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’

*Who are the hungry, the homeless, and the imprisoned in our community?*

**Let us pray:**

Lord, Open our eyes

**R. / *That we may see you in our brothers and sisters***

Lord, Open our ears

**R. / *That we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.***

Lord, Open our hearts,

**R. / *That we may love each other as you love us***

***Together: Renew in us your spirit,***

**Lord, free us and make us one.**

Lord of Life, empower us to live in readiness for your coming: in the ways we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, care for the sick, visit prisoners, and bury the dead.

Empower us to share our knowledge of you, give advice to those in need, comfort those who suffer, show patience to others, forgive one another, admonish those who need it, and pray for others.

Enliven our hearts and guide our deeds.

In Jesus name, we pray AMEN

(Adapted from Living God’s Justice, St Anthony Messenger Press)