

Archdiocese of Glasgow Justice and Peace Commission



Openness, generosity and courage: three qualities championed by St Ignatius of Loyola in his Spiritual Exercises to take us forward into the New Year.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

‘In teaching us charity, the Gospel instructs us in the preferential respect due to the poor and the special situation they have in society: the more fortunate should renounce some of their rights so as to place their goods more generously at the service of others.’
Pope Paul VI. 1971. Octogesima Adveniens, 23

POVERTY ACTION SUNDAY, February 6th

Church Action on Poverty is a UK-based ecumenical Christian social justice charity, committed to tackling poverty. CAP works in partnership with churches and with people in poverty themselves to find solutions, locally and nationally and is responsible for running Poverty and Homelessness Action Week. CAP began the *Living Ghosts* campaign highlighting the destitution of asylum seekers in the UK. It also contributes to the Debt on our Doorstep campaign against loan sharks and extortionate lending practices. Niall Cooper, Director of CAP, stated in 2009, “Many of our politicians are threatening to make cuts that will have a devastating impact on the most vulnerable people in our society. It is vital that churches and individual Christians stand in solidarity with those in poverty and demand that any rescue plan for our economy take their needs into account.” The Coalition’s rescue plan is now upon us. With the certain increase in number of those in poverty, remember the exhortation above, from Paul VI.

ASYLUM

The Coalition Government is accused of watering down its promise to end the detention of child asylum seekers by setting up new centres to detain families refusing to leave the UK. Families will still be kept in “secure” units behind high fences for up to a week, reigniting concern over the Coalition’s flagship policy of ending child detention, announced by Nick Clegg in a fanfare of publicity last year.

'LET THE CHILDREN LIVE!'

This is a charity based at the mediaeval shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham. It is dedicated to helping the street children of Colombia, who are victims of poverty, drugs and violence as they struggle to survive in the rubbish dumps and sewers. Regarded as "the disposable ones" some are shot at random, even by police and military. The charity is a last resort for these children to whom it offers shelter, education, love and hope. It now needs urgent help to continue its work because of the devaluation of the pound against the local currency and the high local costs of providing food and care. Despite continuing support from the UK and local people some programmes have already had to be cut. These children desperately need protection. For more information contact: **Let the Children Live! PO Box 11, Walsingham, Norfolk, NR22 6EH** or the website:

www.letthechildrenlive.org

Prepared by the Justice and Peace Group, St. Joseph's Milngavie, February 2011.