NEWS

CRA ADVOCATES FOR THE VULNERABLE DURING PANDEMIC

CRA has joined a coalition of Catholic organisations who have written a letter to the Prime Minister and several Ministers advocating for the most vulnerable people in our community to receive government support as the impacts of COVID-19 continue to wreak havoc.

This includes 1.5 million temporary visa holders; people who have or are losing their jobs, who have no access to any form of financial safety net, to Medicare, to temporary shelter, and to fundamental support services such as free legal advice. This includes women who are victims of trafficking and victims of modern slavery, people seeking asylum, and women on temporary visas experiencing domestic violence.

To read the letter, click here or above. CRA is a co-signatory, along with 14 leaders of religious institutes.

There is also a petition you can sign here and share with your congregational members, if you wish.

Read the CRA media release and the Marist Brothers' Australia media release.

UNANIMA International

News from the United Nations and around the world is available in UNANIMA International's first newsletter of 2020, click the link to read the UNANIMA newsletter.

It follows the 58th Commission for Social Development at the United Nations in New York which was significant as it is the first time in the history of the United Nations that it has specifically addressed homelessness.

JOBKEEPER PACKAGE TO INCLUDE A NEW CATEGORY OF 'RELIGIOUS PRACTITIONERS'

Representations to Government have been successful in extending the JobKeeper package to include a new category of 'religious practitioners,' announced Friday, 24 April 2020. This appears to recognise that religious are not 'employees.'

Further discussions with the ATO will continue this week to obtain more details and to discuss the correct terminology to ensure that there is no risk to the non-employee status of religious. There is also a change to the manner in which government funding and its impact on the revenue test is treated for charities. Please click here to obtain further Government information.

COURSES

WINTER ACCULTURATION PROGRAMME - cancelled

For several years, the Josephites in collaboration with the Columban Fathers have been offering a Winter Acculturation Programme for priests and religious coming to Australia to minister, normally held in July. As a result of COVID-19, the programme has been cancelled. Please read the letter here.

PASTORAL CARERS TRAINING COURSE FOR CATHOLIC PSYCHIATRIC PASTORAL CARE - cancelled

This course is one of the Pastoral Ministries of Centacare run through the Archdiocese of Brisbane. The course was due to start on Wednesday 6th May. Due to COVID-19, the course has been cancelled.

RETREATS

Time of the Sage: A Sabbatical for Religious Living the 80s years

Date: 16 November – 13 December 2020
Venue: St Joseph's, Baulkham Hills
Cost: $5,615.00
Registration: Click here to read the brochure. For an application form, programme or enquiries please email: bookings@stjosephscentre.org.au or phone: 02 9634 2317.

BOOKS

Life to the Full: Stories of Infertility, Faith and a Hope-Filled Future, by Debra Vermeer, tells the stories of seven couples, including the author and her husband, who have walked their own path through infertility. It is a book of struggle, but also of hope, as each couple opens themselves to God's will in their life, finding not only a measure of peace in their infertility, but also new callings and new dreams that have given rise to surprising fruitfulness. St Pauls Publications have advised that if anyone is interested in doing a review or an article on the book, they will provide a review copy for that purpose. View the brochure.

REFLECTIONS ON COVID-19

Welcome All That Arrives, a reflection from LCWR and a little light relief below.