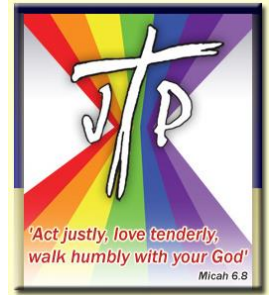




Portsmouth Diocese

Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility

Bulletin August 2017



Each one of you has to be God's microphones

"There are not two categories of people. There are not some who were born to have everything and leave others with nothing and a majority that has nothing and can't enjoy the happiness that God has created for all. God wants a Christian society, one in which we share the good things that **God has given for all of us.**"

"The Word of God is like the light of the sun, it illuminates beautiful things, but also things we would rather not see"

Three motivational quotes from **Archbishop Oscar Romero** born 100 years ago on 15th August

A Sabbath for the Earth and the Poor – the challenge of Pope Francis

This was the title of this year's National Justice and Peace Network Conference inspired by the words of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* "Sunday like the Jewish Sabbath is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves and with others and with the world" (para237)

Made for Love

Dr Ruth Valerio from Tearfund opened the weekend by looking at the Pope's encyclical in a practical way of everyday family life. Suggesting that to live out this integrated ecology where all people and all creation can flourish we need to consider three things:

- ❖ A radical reappraisal of consumerist culture
- ❖ lifestyle changes
- ❖ an inner ecological conversion.

She asked us to consider progress differently not in economic terms but in terms of human flourishing. We need to truly convert ourselves and others, more stuff is not always better and

suggested we cultivate gratitude and develop "good habits and sound virtues"

We know that for the benefit of "the earth and the poor" there are changes we need to make she suggested to work at this we consider the process of moving from knowledge- to discipline -to habit. For example, we **know** that it would be better to walk or cycle than use the car, at first, we must **discipline** ourselves to change, allow more time, eventually though it will become a **habit** we won't think of the car for short trips.

Books highlighted

Donut Economics by Kate Raworth

L is for lifestyle by Ruth Valerio

Listening to cry of Poor in Latin America

Father Peter Hughes, a Columban priest again highlighted the need for conversion and divided his talk into three. (Matt 11) Workers for the kingdom need to use their eyes to see, feet to move and hands to embrace. "The

gift of Frances is a lens to see and reflect and begin again with our faith, to try to open our eyes in our confusion of what is happening in the world" - to "read the signs of the times" To



discern and change, move ourselves to live differently and be merciful with our hands reaching out to those in need.

He warned that the planet's fresh air, water and biodiversity are all being undermined with consequences for the whole Earth community. Lamenting destructive practices of extractive industries, and describing the Amazon's three million indigenous people as "today's lepers, reduced to nothingness". He said he was not totally against mining, "but it must be done in a more respectful way, respecting international law".

Finding Joy

Kate Galloway the final speaker added to the discourse by urging that we live more sustainably and avoid a "privatised religion" which does not engage with the struggles of the most marginalised. There was a plea to support campaigns that challenge unjust and violent structures, and "to look outside the holy places for places where God's reign is breaking through" Examples in Scotland ranged from anti-nuclear protests on the streets, churches opening their doors to asylum seekers and "guerrilla" gardening.



Truth Commission

This presentation was a powerful example of how communities can work together for deep change - making that quote from Romero "we are not two categories of people" a reality. It's a whole community initiative which gets together those directly involved in poverty with Charities and policy makers working as equals for

local change. Three people who had worked in Leeds Truth commission shared their experience they described a transformative process. You Tube **Leeds Poverty Truth**

Romero: the Heart of El Salvador

This Rise theatre play was a treat for the evening. It showed in brief snapshots how Romero as Archbishop came to see the suffering of the people and acted, speaking out for love and just peace.

Take Part in Romero Centenary

12th August: 12:30pm

Mass in St Georges Cathedral
Southwark

9th September

Romero walk from Havant to St John's
cathedral CAFOD/ Caritas Event

Book on Eventbrite

23rd September

Romero Day at Westminster Abbey
Reserve place on Eventbrite

18th November

Romero: Heart of El Salvador Play
St John's Cathedral Portsmouth

Book Romero play for your own school or parish
touring@riseteatre.co.uk

Opportunities for pray and action

Creation Time begins on 1st September 2017

Caritas launch 13th October 2017

One world Week 22-29st October 2017

Please contact us at

JPSR@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

for all your news and question



Heavenly Father

We thank you for eyes, feet and hands to see, act and embrace the earth and the poor

Give Us the strength to be humble, to be faithful and to stand with our brothers and sisters.

Give us the wisdom to be like our brother Oscar completely committed to Christ

Give us the courage to work with integrity for an end to violence and poverty.

Blessed Oscar Romero Pray for us