Bishop David Cremin's Address to Migrant Chaplains

Centres: Quasi Parishes, churches and other structures for Migrant Communities.

Pluses and Minuses

Dream of ex. migrant group to have their own place for Mass and social events, independent of Parish, and so as to not having to fit in with parish events.

Cultural reminders of home, such as pictures, photos, scenes of people, banners etc.

BUT two aspects of Multiculturism:

1. walk with/celebrate with homeland
2. walk with/celebrate with new country (Host)

The more permanent structures – have to integrate = danger of National Style or Churches, such as USA or Canada. Tend to stay apart.

All national groups have clubs and historical/social GATHERING places. My own Irish people are very strong in these clubs. Irish pubs, community radio programmes ….

We in the church can be leaders in helping migrants to integrate and be involved in LOCAL PARISHES.

Migrant churches have a huge need to mix with local Parish Churches and for Masses in English.

Migrant Chaplains as bridge builders

Need local Parish Priest to

- treat him as EQUAL. Pastor to Migrant Community A. Pitorello did much work with me, for example writing Application References for Catholic Schools.
- Provide opportunities for involvement in Parish Meetings. Father Maurizio Petena, Liverpool, Thursday evening.
  Liturgy planning. (Time of Chaplaincy Application too short)

- EXCHANGE MASSES
  Parish Priest Migrant's Mass
  Migrant Chaplain's Mass in English
  Presupposes that Migrant Chaplain speaks English
  Maybe the Parish Priest can learn some of the Migrant languages.

- PENTECOST SUNDAY/IMMERAT. SUN
  Combined Liturgy
  Sharing readings and prayers
  Different languages

- SOCIALIZE TOGETHER
  Father Nards, number 1 seeded Tennis player at priests, Sydney.
  Father Paul Amato plays golf with 300 members
  Father Maurizio and the young priests go to the gym together.

- INTERCULTURAL MEALS

MULTICULTURAL PARISH PLAN
From Father Dominic Ceresoli, Scal. Vicar Parish Priest

Plan of St. Theris' Parish, Mascot
3 Priests – Dominic – Reinaldo – Tiziano
All ethnic groups, to have key representatives
Report regularly on Gen. and Devoherne News
Parish Past Council represented

Twice a year ONE MASS ONLY (Pentecost, Patron Feast then Multi Fiesta)
Normally there are weekly services – 3 in English, I in Italian, Spanish, Portugese and Tafalog

- Novena Weeks in English, Spanish or Tafalog depending on predominant group.

- Rosary Statue to homes
  Language and Host Home
  Priest says Home Mass if possible

- Father Reinaldo speaks Portugese, Spanish, Italian, Tafalog and English

Any Parish with a resident Chaplain could so same if the Parish Pries is willing and open.

Plan of Kingsgrove (previously) Older Parish Priest
Parish divided into Cells (basic community groups)
- 6 geographic
- 2 Migrant (predominantly)

Pastoral Council grown from leaders of the cells

Youth Council Service

Assistant Priest in Parish – Plus and Minuses
- Plus - Collaboration, Building bridges….
- Plus - No tension
- Minus – Assistant Father/Chaplain needs more time and opportunities for ministering to his people.

- Minus – finding suitable prime time for Migrant Masses – not relegated to the afternoon etc.

Assistant Priest can be moved every three years unless case can be made for longer tenure, or for a replacement with a priest who speaks the same languages.

Reverse Role
Migrants play host to other Parisherners. Food, music, song and dance for festive events.

AFRICAN REFUGEES
Sydney Experience:

- Sudanese Catholics met S.M. Sullivan, Sister Anne Lawl and DC. They asked for help in bringing Sudanese here (Airfares). They had visas and were out of Sudan, in Ethiopia, Egypt and other countries surrounding Sudan.
- Loan $10,000. Appeal $250,000. They were not asking for a gift, but to pay the loan back and help others to gain access to money.
- Pastoral Worker: Tresa Diing, a gift from God. 13 people live in her house. She herself is a mother of two.
- Many have come, and they have suffered as we have NO idea of suffering. They have been persecuted and lived on the run in camps.
- How different it is for them to settle in Australia, especially the young people.
    - most have no experience of school (some however do)
    - they have not experienced ordered society as we recognize it for a long, long time. For example they have no garbage collections, and no local authorities such as the police.
- Now the present government has put the brakes on. They are beautiful, dignified people who need our support. Shame on the Howard government.
- "tall". Voice to Cardinal Pell (very tall). He hooked up.

AGING MIGRANTS
Dutch Experience;

- Integrated more quickly than most.
- Older age complete loss of mother tongue
- Appreciated words of Bishop Joe Grech on all his subjects but on this subject he spoke so sensitively.
- Ageing needs warmth and security of home and all that surrounds it. Plus they are not home with their family.
- Retirement home with native language and Liturgy.
- Visitation in home or retirement home by Chaplain. My experience is that our chaplains have really been pure gold in doing that.
- Phillip Ruddock – NMAC – letters of criticism, never vote, 20 Academics, Church.
- Core values of Australian Government?

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE
Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office

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Migrant &
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AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MIGRANT & REFUGEE OFFICE
GPO BOX 2720 CANBERRA ACT 2601
51 Cooyong Street Braddon ACT 2612
Formerly 1 Ballumbir Street Braddon ACT 2612

T: (02) 6201 9848
F: (02) 6247 7466

director@acmro.catholic.org.au
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