



# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

## Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office



Australian Catholic  
Migrant &  
Refugee Office

### **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 Multiculturalism:

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



# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

## Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office



Australian Catholic  
Migrant &  
Refugee Office

- **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, 1 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.



# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

## Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office



Australian Catholic  
Migrant &  
Refugee Office

- 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 Parishers. 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 (Airtfares). 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



Australian Catholic  
Migrant &  
Refugee Office

