

GLOBAL RESPONSE TO PHILIPPINES' NEED – CARITAS' LOVE IN ACTION



Rebuilding has begun in the Philippines with Caritas support. This young man is repairing his roof in Panay.

PHOTO: RYAN WORMS/CARITAS

The Caritas international network is responding to the impact of Super Typhoon Haiyan (local name Yolanda) that hit the central Philippines on 8 November. The total number of displaced persons is more than 4.4 million, while the total affected is nearly 12 million.

Our own Humanitarian Programmes Coordinator, Mark Mitchell, is leading the international Emergency Response

and Support Team supporting NASSA/Caritas Philippines in the immediate response phase.

It reflects the Caritas way of operating in a large-scale emergency – the local Caritas leading the response on the ground, with the support and additional expertise of our worldwide network.

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One human family: food for all

Right now about one billion people across the world do not get enough to eat. Even in New Zealand many do not know where their next meal will come from. Yet there IS enough food to feed all. On 10 December, the international Caritas network launches a global two-year campaign to end hunger by 2025, and promote the right to safe, adequate and nutritious food. Join us in a global wave of prayer on the day, and check our website for more resources, videos and messages. Read more on the back page.

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Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand incorporates Mahitahi – Catholic Overseas Volunteers, and is a member of Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of 165 Catholic aid, development and social justice agencies working in more than 200 countries and territories.



Global response to Philippines' need – Caritas' love in action, continued

At time of writing, Mark had just returned from Tacloban- one of the worst hit cities – after ensuring the delivery of much-needed shelter tarpaulins from the New Zealand government. Witnessing scenes at the airport, he said: 'There were people, dust, planes everywhere – incredibly loud with hundreds and hundreds of people queued up to get on flights out of Tacloban. There were trees broken half way up and the airport terminal destroyed.'

'We saw the ceaseless activity of international aid and the challenges that come with it. But working in partnership with Caritas Philippines means we have a good mechanism to deliver these emergency, essential supplies as quickly as possible. We are here to listen to what people want and assist however we can'.

'Water, food, medicine, shelter, hygiene and sanitation are immediate priorities. As well as clearing debris and sorting logistics so aid can get through', says Mark.

An immediate response by Caritas Philippines helped meet food needs for 345,000 people. It also has a plan to assist over 275,000 people survive and recover over the next three months through helping with food, water and sanitation, shelter, blankets restoration of livelihoods.

People are not helpless. In Ormoc, Caritas staff met 75-year-old Demetria Omega (pictured) – she was managing a small stall surrounded by her grandchildren. Though in need of shelter after her house was destroyed, she was doing whatever she could to deal with her problems.

'We can't just sit and do nothing. I managed to get a small \$25 loan and set up this fruit and vegetable stall. So I hope I'll be able to support my family and deal with this disaster. It's important to keep busy and do what I can for my grandchildren.'

The Caritas network is seeking more than \$12 million to help in the Philippines. Thanks to overwhelming support from New Zealanders in the first days of our Appeal, we have been able to seek matching government funding to enable a \$500,000 initial contribution to this great need. We also pledge our ongoing solidarity to Filipinos both in the Philippines and in Aotearoa New Zealand.

'Recovery takes a long time,' says Mark Mitchell. 'While the initial emergency appeal is for three months, the journey to help rebuild a region and its people takes a lot longer. Caritas Internationalis will be here working in partnership with Caritas Philippines once the global spotlight has gone,' he says.



Carpenters and volunteers work on an emergency shelter for a family in Haubon, Ormoc, after their home was destroyed. The shelter will house four adults and two children.

PHOTO: JIM STIPE/CRS



PHOTO: RYAN WORMS/CARITAS

Mark Mitchell with New Zealand defence force personnel at Cebu, ensuring tarpaulins from New Zealand get to the needs at Tacloban and surrounding areas.



PHOTO: RYAN WORMS/CARITAS

One Family in Mission

On Mission Sunday (20 October) MissioNZ invited several speakers to share their experiences and approach towards our Christian mission to *do our part* and to *share our faith*.

About 60 persons found their way to the Pompallier Diocesan Centre in Auckland where Fr Bernard Espiritu SVD invited us to a prayer in which it said: 'Open our hearts to hope. Inspire us with words of consolation and with life-giving gestures.'

Various agencies shared how in their respective work areas and mandates, they are united in our common mission to serve Christ in the poor. The two Caritas speakers, Beate Matthies and Christina Reymer, gave an example of how to find synergies and promote development of communities. Mahitahi was merged into Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand only at the beginning of the year - yet the mutual impact has been enormous.

The Bishops' Lent Appeal 2014 will focus on Solomon Islands, where Mahitahi has been very successful in establishing relationships with the bishops and the parishes. Skilled volunteers have been working in various areas of the Solomons and have contributed to the development of communities and the empowerment of the local population.

Empowerment, education, advocacy and emergency support – these things Caritas offers to help meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable, in Aotearoa New Zealand, Solomon Islands and elsewhere in the world.

Caritas Gifts

Last chance to buy a Caritas Gift for your special friends and family members this Christmas: Share your love by providing gifts of peace and goodwill to all on behalf of the people closest to you.



We have a large range of gifts available that show how your money goes towards helping people in need. Our gifts are organised into four separate funds: Hope, Life, Peace and Learning. Money from each gift contributes to a wider area of work.

For example, our Gifts of Life help provide essentials such as food, water, shelter and hygiene in emergencies—whether from disasters such as typhoons and earthquakes, or in protracted conflict situations such as in Syria and Darfur.

When you buy a Caritas Gift, we send you a special gift card for you to write your personal message to give to someone you care about.

Place your order by Friday 13 December to ensure you get your Gift in time for Christmas. Allow 7 days for delivery.

Caritas Gifts can be bought at any time of the year.

Visit www.caritasgifts.org.nz online to view the gifts and place your order; or contact the Caritas office phone 0800 22 10 22 or email caritas@caritas.org.nz. Printed catalogues are available.

BACK TO THE BELLS FOR TONGA

We hope and pray that Pacific Islands close to us will never face a Haiyan-style cyclone. However, if they do, many islanders will be in a better state of readiness as a result of disaster preparedness training and exercises conducted in Vanuatu, Tonga and Fiji this year. Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand helped develop and implement the comprehensive training exercise with six other agencies, funded by the New Zealand Aid Programme.

'This comprehensive programme is the first of its kind,' says Caritas Humanitarian Programmes Coordinator Mark Mitchell, 'encompassing various countries, and a cooperative approach involving many levels of organisation. Our connections with local NGOs, such as Caritas Tonga, and church networks facilitated participation from those who would be most directly affected by any disasters.'

Caritas Tonga Programmes Officer Amelia Ma'afu (pictured) says one of the outcomes of an exercise simulating a tsunami hitting Tongatapu, was to go back to using church bells and



lali (hollow logs beaten with sticks). This was done because early-warning sirens at one village did not go off. The failure highlighted the importance of regular and reliable servicing of the sirens – as well as supplementing it with traditional warning systems.

Amelia says it was just the kind of thing the exercise was intended to uncover.

'The value for the community is that they had previous training and plans which they were able to implement and see what's involved in disaster response. They were able to implement their plans, identify gaps, and develop strategies to strengthen their response.'

You can read more about this disaster preparedness training and planning in our One World Partnership newsletter for regular donors.

BREAD AND SALT

November 29 marked the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Recently, Caritas Programmes Officer Anna Robertson journeyed with Board chair Mark Richards to show our ongoing solidarity with the most vulnerable Palestinians through our partnership with Caritas Jerusalem.

A version of Anna's reflection below first appeared in Wel-com.

A Palestinian saying with variations throughout the Arab world says, 'There is bread and salt between us.' When I sat down to a meal with local Palestinian women in Shuqba village, one turned to me and just said, 'bread and salt'.

The saying expresses that what is important is not what you are eating but who you eat with and what it means when you sit down together – once you have eaten together, a bond is built between you.

*

The women crowded into a small office laughing and talking loudly. We pushed a few of the desks together to form a table before dishing out large pieces of flat bread covered in olives, onions, almonds and chicken.

Siham, sitting opposite me, said she had been the only parent present at the health coalition meeting and her story slowly came out through our conversation. She had not completed high school, so when Caritas Jerusalem started holding health lectures in the village she found them really useful. The lectures are part of our three-year health programme partnership with Caritas Jerusalem, with funding support from the New Zealand Aid Programme.



PHOTO: ANNA ROBERTSON

Through the health programme, Siham discovered she had hypertension. She joined in support group activities where she was able to get advice from a nutritionist as well as psychosocial support. When she first got

involved, she had domestic violence problems at home. With low self-esteem, she was ashamed to talk about being sick. Many women in the village barely go out of their houses, unable to meet other women in the village – Siham was one of these women.

Through the health project she has been able to access counselling and is much happier. She is no longer afraid to speak up and speak out. She now leaves her house to attend health lectures, participate in the health coalition and support group, and go on exchange visits with Caritas Jerusalem. She talks to others about having hypertension and how to manage it and is actively involved in the community-based health awareness initiatives. She also shares about domestic violence and women's rights – no longer ashamed, afraid or depressed. She has hope.

Further reflections from Anna on peace and justice in Palestine are available online at: www.caritas.org.nz/holy-land-reflections

Mahitahi makes the link for Solomon Islands schools

Mahitahi Catholic Overseas Volunteers has recruited experienced educationalist Brendan Schollum to work with the Archdiocese of Honiara's education office on a project re-integrating state schools into the Catholic system.

When Solomon Islands became an independent nation in 1978, many schools established by various Church missions, including Catholic, were taken over by the Government. Now the Government is revisiting that policy: it wants to return schools to local and church-based education authorities. The Archdiocese of Honiara has been chosen as one of the agencies to pilot this transition.

The education secretary for the Archdiocese of Honiara, Cypriano Nuake, was in New Zealand for three weeks in September for a 'look and learn' visit. He was accompanied by Mr Schollum on visits to schools and education offices in Auckland, Wellington and Hamilton Dioceses.

Mr Schollum then accompanied Mr Nuake back to Solomon Islands where he met principals and managers of Catholic schools, and led workshops on leadership and Catholic character.

'Their challenge is,' says Mr Schollum, 'that if communities want their schools to come back under the umbrella of the Catholic Education Office, they need to be clear about what

it is to be a Catholic school – what their point of difference is; and they need to work this out in the context of their own Melanesian culture, in their own local physical and cultural context.'

'This is an exciting project,' says Christina Reymer, Director of Mahitahi, 'and has been made possible with support from Caritas that enabled Mr Nuake to visit New Zealand. But this is just the first stage of an ongoing project, the beginning of a partnership relationship that is expected to span 3-5 years as the Solomon Islands Catholic Education Office works through the stages of this project.' Mahitahi expects Mr Schollum to be further engaged on it in 2014, as well as other volunteers with expertise in Religious Education, administration, and other areas of education.

Participants at a Catholic Schools Leadership workshop led by Brendan Schollum in Honiara.



Kaitiakitanga at Kaikōura – Stewardship for future generations

Caritas believes communities need to have the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect them. As a result, we have written to Government Ministers about the process of decision-making around certain environmental matters, where significant changes have been made to the processes by which consultation is undertaken with affected communities.

Earlier this year, a Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) which introduced a 'non-notified' environmental category was introduced to Parliament only after Select Committee consideration of the Marine Legislation Bill. The amendments proposed in the SOP were passed on 24 September – the day before submissions closed on a parallel consultation process run by the Ministry for the Environment.

In October, our *Caritas Companions* prayer newsletter highlighted concerns of Ngāti Kurī of Kaikōura that their livelihoods may be threatened by deep-sea oil exploration in the Pegasus Basin. We asked for prayer that their voices be heard as significant decisions are made which could have an impact on the environment and their community.

Caritas was approached by the hapū in September. Jaana Kahu, a member of Te Rūnanga o Te Hāhi Katorika ki Aotearoa (the national Māori Catholic council), explains that the hapū understands their responsibility to be Kaitiaki (guardians) of the land and the ocean. The coast off Kaikōura is one of our richest marine environments and currently being considered for marine reserve protection. The sea is the bread and butter for many within the community – the source of fishing, diving and tourism.

In the 1980s, several Catholics from Ngāti Kurī attended cultural structural analysis workshops with Fr John Curnow, former Director of the Catholic Commission for Evangelisation, Justice and Development. In 1987, faced with a declining economy and high Māori unemployment, four families of Ngāti Kurī, some inspired by their Catholic faith, decided to work on a solution. Together they mortgaged their homes for a loan to start the business Whale Watch.

Now, Whale Watch receives more than 100,000 visitors per

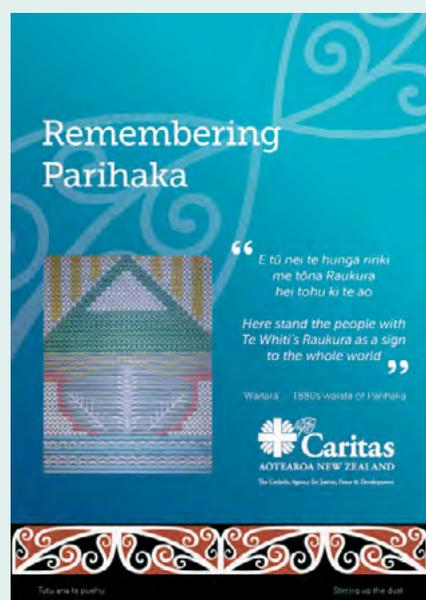


'Hands Across the Sand' to protest proposed oil exploration in the Pegasus Basin.

year and provides direct employment for up to 70 workers during peak season. The business is 50 per cent owned by the Kaikōura Charitable Trust which supports the Fire Brigade, the local marae, health initiatives and other social services.

Ngāti Kurī now believes this to be threatened. Seismic surveying in the initial stages of exploration could adversely affect marine mammals that support the tourism industry. While there is no proof of a direct relationship, local people were concerned that there were no whale sightings for 20 days during April, when it is understood some seismic mapping was being carried out. Their biggest concern, however, is the risk of an oil spill. 'We need to think about the next generation, what are we risking?' says Amelia Taylor of Ngāti Kurī.

While oil exploration and extraction can bring economic benefits, they must be weighed up against social and environmental impacts for the local community. As Pope John Paul II said in *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, 1988, the needs of economic development should be reconciled with the needs of environmental protection for present and future generations. Local communities must be part of the process of decision-making in considering both the positive and negative impacts of the proposed oil exploration.



New resource on Parihaka

Our new resource *Remembering Parihaka* was released in October. This 12-page booklet has been prepared to help Catholic parishes, schools and groups reflect on the story of Parihaka.

In the late 19th century, led by Te Whiti o Rongomai and Tohu Kāhahi, Parihaka became a place of non-violent resistance to the confiscation of land. The village on the western slopes of Taranaki continues to be a place of gathering to discuss issues of the day, and look for a collective response to injustice.



The booklet includes perspectives from Catholic social teaching and liturgical material. It is available free for up to 10 copies (after which additional copies are \$2 each, or by donation). It is also available on our website at www.caritas.org.nz/resources/remembering-parihaka.

Caritas Director Julianne Hickey at Parihaka to present the new resource to the community.

SCHOOLS SPOTLIGHT

This has been another great year with schools getting behind Caritas appeals and projects. A huge thanks to everyone who has demonstrated commitment and concern for those in need both here and overseas. Our Lenten appeal saw schools raising more than \$80,000 for Caritas projects in Tonga and Papua New Guinea. Many schools have also responded to the appeal for Syria. We have received letters describing successful coin trails, sausage sizzles, bring and buys, a soup and nachos lunch, a toy and bake sale, and some intrepid Year 5 and 6 children who survived the night sleeping in a cardboard shelter. This event at Our Lady of Lourdes school in Palmerston North gave them a first-hand experience of what it must be like for Syrian refugee children enduring cold and wet conditions.

It is always great to see the fantastic ideas students invent for fundraising. In September, Marist Primary School, Herne Bay, came up with a unique initiative: seeking donations to Caritas in return for a shoulder massage – \$1 for five minutes. The



PHOTO: GEMMA SINNOTT

first people to take up this offer at the school's market day were the principal Robyn Pivac and teacher Eddy Jesus.

Helping hands: students Soomin and Leilani provide welcome relief for Mrs Pivac and Mrs Jesus.

In September this year, two education team members, along with Nick Borthwick from the international programmes team, travelled to Panguru in North Hokianga. The purpose of the visit was to meet with members of Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, and staff of Te Kura Taumata o Panguru to forge a new partnership. The first step will be to create an educational resource based on the local Warawara forest. The resource will be developed in 2014 and will focus on reclaiming the forest as a pātaka (food basket) for the local community and on kaitiakitanga (stewardship) of this natural resource.



PHOTO: NICK BORTHWICK

Students of Te Kura Taumata o Panguru welcome Caritas staff members and new students to their school with a pōwhiri.

Our Lent 2014 materials are sent to schools in December. The theme for Lent 2014 is to 'Open up a horizon of hope'. For a preview and updates on the Lenten resources go to www.caritas.org.nz/schools/lent-schools

As we reflect on Social Justice Week there have been some positive signs from schools that the topic on youth, work and unemployment was timely and challenging.

The poster-game entertained many adults as well as students while at the same time provided a masterful opportunity to talk over challenges presented by growing numbers of young people seeking meaningful employment. Several primary schools used the opportunity to take a serious look at child labour laws in various countries and to speak out about the injustice of child labour. Some secondary schools found the topic sparked energetic debates around employer/employee relations. Attitudes and stereotypes about young people and their work ethics even generated dramatic performances. We'd like to congratulate every teacher who, with their classes, confronted the injustices currently facing the workforce. Our young people are as much the Church of today as well as tomorrow.

We wish everyone blessings for a well deserved rest over this special season and a heartfelt thanks for all that you do in support of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand.

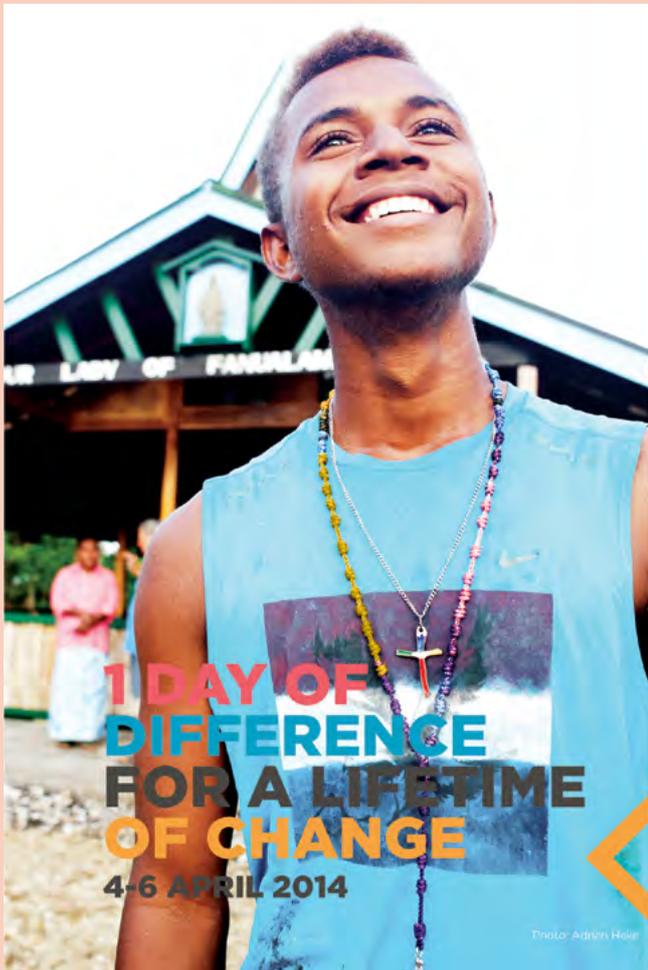
Take up the CHALLENGE 4-6 April 2014

Mark the date for the nationwide, 24-hour Caritas Challenge for schools and youth groups during Lent.

This year, the Caritas Education team has been developing this exciting Lent event for young people. Information packs have gone out to all schools and youth groups in New Zealand to provide support material to help them implement the Challenge.

There are four suggested themes: Move It, Live It, Sweat It, or Stop It. You may decide on one specific theme, combine elements of each, or design your own unique 24-hour Challenge. Participants then seek sponsorship for taking up and surviving the Challenge. The 2014 Caritas Challenge focus is on our neighbours in Solomon Islands who face daily challenges to access vital services like water, housing, health and education.

We are encouraging senior students and youth to take on leadership roles in organising the Caritas Challenge for their school or youth group. Parents, family members and parishioners can support the Caritas Challenge by sponsoring young people in their chosen event. Participation will provide an opportunity to experience in a small way some of the challenges faced by those living in poverty. The Challenge offers a fun and informative way to connect our youth with the principles of Catholic social teaching during Lent.



REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

IUMI TUGETA WOK BETA

The 2014 Caritas Challenge will build solidarity with our neighbours in Solomon Islands who face real challenges on a daily basis. Get friends together and get involved with hands-on experiences that are fun and informative.

WWW.CARITASCHALLENGE.ORG.NZ
0274 266 614



Looking towards Lent 2014

Next year, with your support, we plan to ‘Open up a horizon of hope’ through the Lent Appeal run by Caritas on behalf of New Zealand’s Catholic Bishops. This theme comes from Pope Francis’ homily at his inauguration Mass on 19 March 2013.

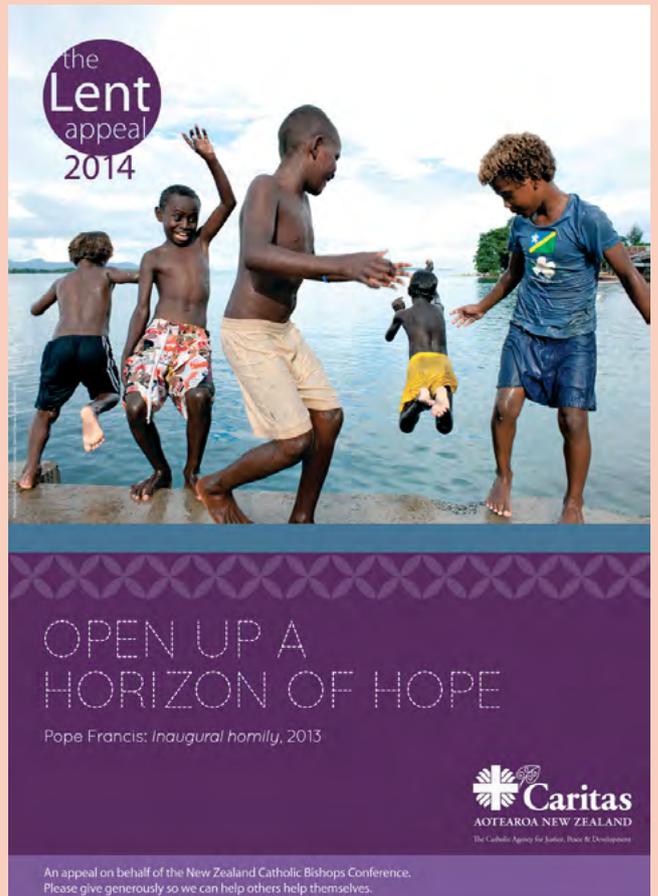
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 5 March, culminating in Easter Sunday on 20 April. Our focus is on the Solomon Islands and the valuable work of our partners. Some of these projects have been highlighted in previous issues of Update and include St Peter’s Rural Training Centre and St Peter’s kindergarten in Gizo diocese, and a water distribution project in Auki diocese.

The Solomon Islands suffered a civil war deriving from ethnic tensions in 1999-2003, and is still recovering from that era. Hope is what we intend to provide the people of the Solomons, and for people around the world through the Lent Appeal.

Lent resources are being developed for both parishes and schools. The Lent calendar has always been very well received by schools, and next year we include a version specially for use with the Lent Appeal envelopes. It will include key dates such as the Caritas Challenge (4-6 April), references for Sunday Gospel reflections and important reminders relating to the Lent Appeal itself.

Our popular Lent Reflection Programme will also be available in Māori for the first time, along with the familiar English, Samoan, Tokelauan and Tongan versions.

We’re looking forward to sharing Lent with you.



10 December: Join us in a wave of prayer



Caritas members unite to end hunger

On 10 December, the international Caritas network of 165 Catholic development and social justice agencies unites in a global two-year campaign against hunger and promoting the right to safe, adequate and nutritious food.

There is enough food for everyone, yet one in eight of our brothers and sisters does not get enough to eat. 'This is one of the greatest disgraces in the world today,' says Caritas Internationalis President Cardinal Rodríguez Maradiaga, who visited New Zealand briefly in October. 'The way food is produced, marketed and distributed does not take into account the needs of the poorest. This is an injustice that we can and must help to change.'

We need 'to stop and look around, and no longer turn our gaze away from hungry children and the elderly, and exploited and dispossessed farmers.'

Interpreting for today Jesus' words to his disciples at the feeding of the 5000 ('*You give them something to eat*'), Cardinal Rodríguez says: *You who are my disciples, do not abandon them [the hungry] to their fate. Do something, you have the means to do so. Stretch your imagination and be creative. Work ceaselessly and share what you have. Fight selfishness and do not waste anything. Protest so that the exploitation of the most vulnerable comes to an end. Demand that the monopolisation of land by the rich be ended. Give the poor, youth, women and farmers the know-how and tools they need to produce, process and sell the products of their land, etc. Do just as God does; He always is interested in our daily bread: ...*

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, building on our 2012 Social Justice Week theme and resources for 'Our Daily Bread', will join in this worldwide effort promoting prayer, advocacy and action to ensure – by 2025 – that no one on our shared home goes needlessly hungry.

The campaign will be launched with a global 'Mexican wave' of prayer – starting at midday local time in Kiribati and Samoa, then proceeding around the world at midday (mostly) in countries' respective time zones. Caritas staff will be praying a special Mass at midday, and we ask you to join in the spirit of this day, by praying the Campaign Prayer below. More resources are available at www.caritas.org.nz/food-for-all.

O God, you entrusted to us the fruits of all creation so that we might care for the earth and be nourished with its bounty.

You sent us your Son to share our very flesh and blood and to teach us your Law of Love. Through His death and resurrection, we have been formed into one human family.

Jesus showed great concern for those who had no food – even transforming five loaves and two fish into a banquet that served five thousand and many more.

We come before you, O God, conscious of our faults and failures, but full of hope, to share food with all members in this global family.

Through your wisdom, inspire leaders of government and of business, as well as all the world's citizens, to find just, and charitable solutions to end hunger by assuring that all people enjoy the right to food.

Thus we pray, O God, that when we present ourselves for Divine Judgment, we can proclaim ourselves as 'One Human Family' with 'Food for All'. AMEN.

CARITASUpdate is the newsletter of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, and is published three times a year. It is distributed to Caritas supporters, and widely throughout the Catholic community and beyond.

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' agency for justice, peace and development. We promote and support work for justice and true human development in New Zealand, the Pacific, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

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