

## Social and Ecological Justice Report

Parish AGM June, 2019

- For the past many years, SEJC, together with Kim Reyhoudt, owner of the Admirals Road Canadian Tire Store, have been donating sleeping bags to the Dandelion Society of Victoria. Canadian Tire has offered the sleeping bags at cost and then matched our purchase. Each year, we are able to donate 32 sleeping bags. Margaret White has been instrumental in this project.
- In December the SEJC organized the annual Christmas fundraiser for the Thembaletu Children's Orphanage in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. Once again the Arbutus Singers put on a lovely performance. Margaret Whiteread read profiles of the children as part of the presentation.

Before Christmas we continued our focus on Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si*

- To draw attention to our use of plastics and the danger to our environment, especially in the oceans to animals there, we put up a display showing alternatives to plastic and other materials which might be recycled (or reused) especially relating to Christmas.

For 2 Sundays we had slides on the projector before Mass

- Next we focused on **water**

We incorporated Pope Francis' words on the right to clean water for everyone, using a display board with photos etc.

We showed the danger to water bottles not recycled.

We showed how some companies who bottle water for the developing world offer this water at a cost. There should be no cost for water.

We showed how not all people in Canada as well as in the developing world have access to clean, safe drinking water.

During Lent, quoting Pope Francis who said in 1918:

“Before the challenges of contemporary movements of migration, the only reasonable response is one of solidarity and mercy. “

- We showed the lack of water for the people walking, and those in refugee camps, and how D&P has provided water and latrines for some of the camps.
- We also showed the difficulties endured by migrants, hoping people will have a positive attitude towards assisting migrants.

On **Wed. Feb. 20**, the Diocesan arm of D&P offered a workshop on the theme of Migrants – Forced to Flee. Nancy Stuart and Sister Marina Smith facilitated this workshop.

Note: Nancy and Marina gave this workshop to 3 classes at St. Andrew’s HS who found it good.

Sister Marina Smith gave it to two grade seven classes who also found it good.

- During lent we brought the theme of Development and Peace to the parish. - forced migration.
- On the **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**, we used 4 symbols to bring home the difficulties the migrants face. 1. a pair of old shoes 2. a backpack 3. a lifejacket 4. a dish to be shared (bread)

We offered a piece of homemade bread (bannok) as people left the church.

- Two of our members are members of the parish refugee committee who continue to work with a family of four who arrived in Victoria in September.