



Shrewsbury Diocese Justice and Peace Commission

QUICK NEWS NETWORK

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2005: The Year of MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY



For many of us, 2005 was a year of frenetic activity as we did our best to Make Poverty History - often alongside our other ongoing J&P commitments and concerns. But action needs always to be complemented by reflection. CAFOD has recently been engaged in its own review of last year and has produced material to enable us to do likewise.

In **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY: the challenges and changes**, CAFOD's two-sided A4 sheet (available on CAFOD's website or from Joan) summarises its review. It is well worth reading. Some of its key points are:

- **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** was a call for justice, not charity, particularly for the UK to stop imposing harmful policies on poor countries.
- In the UK, unprecedented numbers of people of all ages took action, part of a global movement of over 31 million.
- Important principles for tackling poverty were agreed, but the practice has failed to live up to them so far.
- **AID**: Increase of \$48bn per year by 2010. Some progress on better aid, especially for Africa.
- **DEBT**: \$1 bn per year for 18 qualifying countries. Principle of 100% cancellation agreed.
- **TRADE**: UK promises during 2005 were not implemented at the WTO. The EU and US continue to force poor countries into harmful policies and offer virtually nothing in return. There has been no action to regulate big multinational companies.

In a section entitled *Moving Forward*, the review concludes: "2005 is a year for campaigners to remember. We were part of the biggest ever anti-poverty movement and in doing so we made history. The fight against poverty continues and the passion, energy and momentum of 2005 will fuel future campaigning for years to come".

WHAT CAN WE DO NEXT?

- **REFLECTION** CAFOD's newly-produced Group Reflection Resource *Reflecting on a Time of Transition* uses Deuteronomy (15:7-12) to help a group (or individual) to review their experience of last year so as to 'walk confidently into the future, buoyed up by our faith'. Available on CAFOD's website www.cafod.org.uk/resources/campaign_kit/make_poverty_history_pack/liturgies or from Joan.
- **ACTION** CAFOD is asking us to send our white bands to Tony Blair at the end of this month to remind him of our own commitment to ending extreme poverty and his own promise to bring this about.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sue Bownas who has recently been appointed as the first CAFOD Diocesan Manager for Shrewsbury Diocese. For the past eleven years Shrewsbury Diocese has been covered by staff covering the dioceses of Birmingham and Shrewsbury - a huge area. Helen and Julia have served us well from the office at Walsall, but it will be a great benefit for CAFOD supporters to have a point of contact within our own diocese. Sue is a long-standing supporter of CAFOD, a Campaign Volunteer, and member of the CAFOD Group at St Clare's, Chester. She looks forward to getting to working in the rest of the diocese. Until an office has been established in the diocese for Sue, continue to contact CAFOD West Midlands (01922 722944) shrewsbury@cafod.org.uk.

In Truth, there is Peace

In his first Message for the World Day of Peace at the beginning of the New Year, Pope Benedict XVI expresses his own commitment to peace and expresses his '*hope for a more serene world, a world in which more and more individuals and communities are committed to the paths of justice and peace*'. He insists that '*any authentic search for peace must begin with the realisation that the problem of truth and untruth is the concern of every man and woman*' - a theme developed in our own J&P Conference in Crewe, last March!

Full message on www.paxchristi.org.uk or from Joan

Church Action on Poverty



Endurance Challenge!

Could you take on the life of a refused asylum seeker for one week by living off the equivalent of £5 a week and a food parcel for the first week of Lent, 1-8 March? If you can't manage that, you could consider a 24-hour fast instead...

For more information, contact CAP
0161 236 9321
www.church-poverty.org.uk

Poverty Action Sunday 26 February

Resources available.

