



# JUSTICE & PEACE NEWS

March 2006

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You are welcome to join our  
Justice and Peace Group

The Justice and Peace Group of our parish is made up of parishioners who meet up once a month, to discuss and share ideas on various Justice and Peace issues. The aim is to raise awareness and support peace and justice campaigns within the parish, the community and the world.

The coordinator of this group is Hiroto Fujiwara. For more information, you can contact him at: [Hiroto.Fujiwara@wanadoo.nl](mailto:Hiroto.Fujiwara@wanadoo.nl)

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**“Let your light so shine  
before the world”.**

Matthew 5 v 16.

Message from Fr. Sjaak de Boer

Lent 2006 and beyond.....

The time before Easter asks us to focus on situations that can be a sign of Christ's resurrection in the world. The many people and contexts in which the suffering of Christ becomes more obvious than the victory over the cross, need our attention. This year our Lenten Campaign will focus on the poor on our doorstep. Not in countries far away. In The Hague there are many homeless and people living in poverty. We hope to give you an impression of the crosses and victories in this city of International Justice.

Beyond Easter, in our parish from 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May, there will be a symposium for the pastors of European key cities in the UN or EU. Together we'll reflect on how we can support the UN Millennium Goals to reduce world poverty by 2015. Lent, Easter and Pentecost give us beautiful opportunities to strike a balance between 'Ora et Labora', or if you prefer 'Faith and Solidarity'.

I wish you all a fruitful 90 days between Ash Wednesday and the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

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## Lenten Campaign 2006

Every year, during Lent, we commit ourselves to a particular project to strengthen the significance of Lent, not merely through personal denial but also through active contribution to others. This year's Lenten Campaign will focus on the work of :

### **The Street Pastor**

*A street pastor helps people who live on the streets. They are often homeless, addicted to drugs and alcohol. The street pastor does not have an office but instead actively looks up the people living on the streets in shelters, parks, public areas etc. These people are often marginalised from society. The street pastor is the person they trust and rely on. By listening, responding, praying or providing caring support, the pastor provides care and opportunity for the people who live on the streets to live in dignity and fulfilment.*

The motivation for their work is the respect for God's love for each individual and the value that Christ Himself placed on justice, on care for the poor and the outsider and on love for one's neighbour.

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**If you are interested in Justice and Peace issues or have a little free time to help out, please contact Hiroto Fujiwara ([Hiroto.Fujiwara@wanadoo.nl](mailto:Hiroto.Fujiwara@wanadoo.nl)). We meet once a month. Dates of the meeting are published in the bulletin.**

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## Introducing Mariëtte Brekelmans, Street Pastor of the Hague

Mariëtte provides pastoral care for the people living on the streets of the Hague. She says: "I carry my office on my back, pointing at her little rucksack, containing her mobile phone, her agenda, her bible, a map of the Hague, some candles and useful tools for her work with the homeless. Every Friday afternoon at 17.00h, she also conducts a prayer-service for the homeless and drug addicts in the Saint Joseph's Chapel at Westeinde 101A. After the service, there is a simple meal, consisting of soup, sandwiches and coffee for everybody. "It would be wonderful if our work received some attention and support. I look forward to meeting your parish and to explaining to your parishioners about the work we do".

***Mariëtte Brekelmans will write in the bulletin and, on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March, will preach in our church.***

***As part of the Lenten Campaign we will organise a tour through which our parishioners will learn more about pastoral care for the homeless. Specifically, on Palm Sunday, there will be a sponsored walk to visit her project. The funds we raise during Lent will be used to support the new projects of the Street Pastor and her volunteers.***

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***"As you drink your coffee, why not take a moment to think about where it came from, and about the people who grew and processed it?"***



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### How Fair Trade helps farmers

**Over half of the world's coffee is produced on small family farms with only a few acres of coffee trees.** Fair Trade certification provides a way for these farmers to increase their incomes by helping them organize into cooperatives and linking them directly to coffee importers. Fair Trade farmers are guaranteed a premium over the prevailing price being paid for coffee on the international market. In addition, Fair Trade improves farmers' economic stability by encouraging importers to extend financial credit to cooperatives and to develop long-term trading relationships.

***When you purchase Fair Trade coffee, you know you're making a difference in the lives of coffee farmers***

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### Answer to our Letter Campaign to the G8 Summit and Debt Relief

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown recognises that the efforts of individuals, church groups and other local organisations have been tremendously important in shifting international opinion in the past.

***"It is largely because of these efforts that the G8 have agreed 100 percent multilateral debt relief on top of the 100 per cent bilateral debt relief that the UK and many other countries already give".***

***Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, UK***

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## Millenium Development Goals

The Millenium Development Goals were accepted by the United Nations in 2000, to guide the international community in assisting developing countries. These goals represent a common and strong commitment to eradicate poverty and injustice worldwide that are to be realised by the year 2015. **Eight concrete goals were set with the intention of giving a perspective of hope above all to the poor.**

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### The Millennium Development Goals are:

1. eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. achieve universal primary education
3. promote gender equality and empower women
4. reduce child mortality
5. improve maternal health
6. combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. ensure environmental sustainability
8. develop a global partnership for development

"In an world where poverty and the basic needs of a vast majority of humanity remain to be met, it is of crucial importance to stimulate constructive cooperation and coordinated action amongst people of good will in religious communities, political parties and civil society. They have a common interest in creating a safer and more just world by fostering effective efforts to combat poverty. As people of faith we are proud to take up this challenge".

*Victor Scheffers, General Secretary, Justitia et Pax Netherlands*



## The Community of Sant'Egidio

The Community of Sant'Egidio began in Rome in 1968, in the period following the Second Vatican Council. Today it is a movement of lay people and **has more than 50,000 members, dedicated to evangelisation and charity in more than 70 countries throughout the world.**

The Community of Sant'Egidio is a "Church public lay association". The different communities, spread throughout the world, share the same spirituality and principles which characterise the way of Sant'Egidio:

**Prayer**, which is an essential part of the life of the community.

**Communicating the Gospel**, the heart of the life of the Community, which extends to all those who seek and ask for a meaning for their life.

**Solidarity with the poor**, lived as a voluntary and free service, in the evangelical spirit of a Church that is the "Church for all and particularly the poor" (Pope John XXIII)

**Ecumenism**, lived as a friendship, prayer and search for unity among Christians of the whole world.

**Dialogue**, recommended by Vatican II as a way of peace and co-operation among the religions, and also a way of life and as a means of resolving conflicts.

**During Lent our Sant'Egidio Group will hold 3 special meetings:**

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9<sup>th</sup> March</b>  | <b>St Egidio Prayer at 19.00 in the Green Room at church</b>  |
| <b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b> | <b>St Egidio Peace Prayer at 19.30 in Westeinde Chapel</b>    |
| <b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b>  | <b>St Egidio Prayer at 19.00 in the Green room at church.</b> |

**The Sant'Egidio contact person for the Hague is Jacques van der Meer (070-329 2049)**

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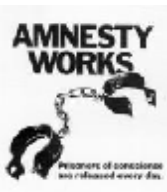
**The Community of Sant'Egidio in the Hague** has a steering committee, half of which consists of parishioners of Our Saviour.

Currently, there are **two projects** going on: the bi-monthly peace-prayers and an orientation programme in the Schilderswijk area in the Hague.

The ecumenical peace prayers take place in the St. Joseph' Chapel, Westeinde 101A, in the Hague. They first start with a prayer in the liturgical tradition of the Community of Sant'Egidio followed by a talk given by special guests. The central theme this year is "Inspiration".

The Schilderswijk is one of the poorest areas of the Hague. To be able to help, they started an orientation programme to inventarise the situation. This included visits to religious communities, social centres, centre for refugees etc. in that area.

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## Many people ask 'Does Amnesty International's work really help?'

### You can make a difference!

Amnesty International (AI) works to improve human rights through the actions of ordinary people around the world. They have a record of real achievement. Prisoners of conscience are released. Death sentences are commuted. Torturers are brought to justice. Governments are persuaded to change their laws and practices.

***Sometimes our solidarity keeps hope alive. Hope is a precious weapon for prisoners battling to survive, relatives trying to obtain justice or human rights defenders bravely continuing their work despite danger and isolation.***

The people we have been trying to help often let us know that our pressure has had some effect and led to improvements. One of their stories is told here. It shows that, however bleak the situation, the actions of AI's members and supporters can make a difference.

*Our Amnesty International co-ordinator is Carol Wooley (070-373 2679)*



### Thank you letter from War Child

Our parish received a big thank you from War Child for the money raised last year. **We raised €1400,00 to support their important work for children across the world affected by war.**

War Child strives for a healthy mental development of children who have lived through war. Children experience terrible things during war, which can be difficult to cope with.

Through music- creative- and sports activities, children learn to express their emotions. This helps them to deal with war experiences and stimulates their personal development and respect for one another. By learning to play again, children are able to escape the difficulties of their daily lives for a while.

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### The impact of letters

Two human rights activists in the Democratic Republic of Congo became subject of a call for solidarity in May. Your plentiful letters and cards have reached them and the organizations they work for. They are **feeling the international support:**

***"We have received almost 1000 letters of support. Others continue to arrive from every corner of the world. To the children, the letters and cards have brought the joy of seeing that people around the world value their lives."***

Extract from a letter to AI



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### Rotterdam Soup Kitchen

In Rotterdam the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity (founded by Mother Teresa) run a Soup Kitchen where about 80-100 homeless people are served one warm meal daily. Every Tuesday a number of our parishioners spend a few hours helping them. Extra volunteers are always welcome! Contact person: Francesca van Duren - 070-346 2866.

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