

11/98 Jubilee 2000 Program

(A report from the Standing Committee)

Introduction

1. The *Jubilee 2000* program is a campaign being conducted by a coalition of organisations who are seeking the cancellation of the international debts of those countries listed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund as highly indebted poor countries. In his presidential address to the Synod in 1998 the Archbishop urged us to play some worthwhile part in the program.
2. In response the Synod resolved as follows -

"Synod, noting the comments of the Archbishop in his Presidential Address -

 - (a) asks the Standing Committee to explore how we, as a Diocese, may play some worthwhile part in the Jubilee 2000 program;
 - (b) asks the Standing Committee to give careful consideration to ways in which the Diocese can pressure the Federal Government, Opposition and other relevant bodies into supporting the cancellation of the unpayable debt of the world's poorest nations; and
 - (c) asks the Standing Committee to give due considerations to the proposal that a levy of 1% be placed on inflows into the Diocesan Appropriations Account, which will be directed to assisting dioceses in some of the most needy and debt ridden parts of the world."

Action Taken

3. The Archbishop is a patron of the Jubilee 2000 program and, with the researcher of our Social Issues Committee (SIC), visited a number of senior politicians and bureaucrats in Canberra late in 1998 to discuss the program. The Archbishop proposed hosting a summit for the Prime Minister and Treasurer on the issue but, unfortunately, it was not possible for this to proceed.
4. In February 1999 the Standing Committee resolved to become an endorsing body of the Jubilee 2000 program. Our SIC and Anglican Media Sydney are also endorsing bodies.
5. Our SIC has been actively working with the campaign and Mr Simon Miller, until recently the SIC researcher, is a member of the national working group and national policy sub committee. The national working group has been involved in the development of the Australian campaign, including lobbying, grass roots campaigning, development of a mass media campaign and co-ordination of local efforts.
6. Our SIC has held an information seminar and promoted the campaign in the Sydney media. The Standing Committee has made funds available to enable the SIC to purchase campaign organiser's packs for distribution to our parishes.
7. The Standing Committee approved the making of written representations in support of the Program to all New South Wales based members of Federal Parliament and all members of the Federal cabinet.
8. Our SIC has played a significant part in our work concerning the Jubilee 2000 program. The Standing Committee thanks the SIC, and particularly Mr Miller, for its efforts.
9. The bill for the Synod Estimates Ordinance 1999 proposes that 1% of the total appropriations under the ordinance be applied by the Archbishop-in-Council for assisting needy dioceses in 2000, 2001 and 2002.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARK PAYNE
Diocesan Secretary

12 August 1999