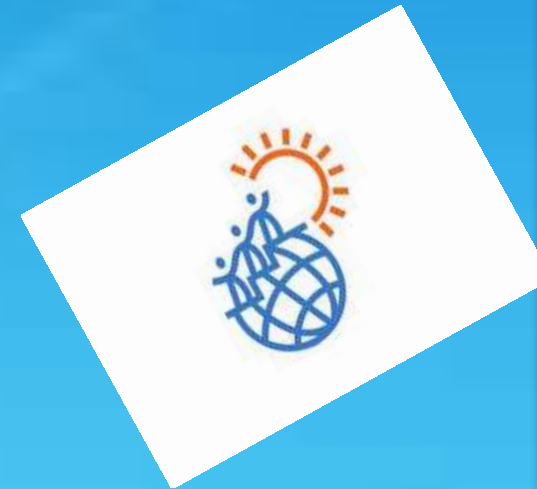


SOCIAL JUSTICE

Father Kevin Barr



- ❖ Hierarchy of our self-esteem
- ❖ Poverty & Wages
- ❖ Culture of Silence
- ❖ Actions need to be taken



Hierarchy of Self-Esteem

- Different ranks, power, authority in any organization, group, etc.
- Gender inequality
- “poor gets poorer, richer gets richer” theory applies when there's different classes of people in a workplace





Hierarchy of Self-Esteem

What can we do about it?

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.
Nelson Mandela



ACTION !!!!!!!





‘Why don’t we do something?’

‘Because in Fiji there is a Culture of Silence – We hear that phrase over and over again, but it is very true. The Culture of Silence means that here in Fiji, we

- accept the status quo,**
- accept the authority**
- wait to be told what to do, and**
- do not take the initiative.**

‘A lot of things – necessary things – won’t happen because we wait We say “there’s nothing, I/we can do”.





“A lot of good things will not happen because people are brought up in this Culture of Silence.”



Fr Barr then gave the example of the Lagilagi Estate – where before, the settlement people just accepted their lot and did nothing, but now they demand change – and the Lagilagi Estate is testimony to their demands.

‘The people are becoming empowered to end this ‘culture of silence which they believe is stopping them from carrying-out initiatives for their own good.





Back to the question of “how do I change things”.

You could

- do research,
- then write to the Minister, write letters to the editor,
- organize groups to discuss it and
- raise the matter in forums and lectures; to your teachers.



Education is the
most powerful
weapon which
you can use to
change the world.

Nelson Mandela

“The disowning of the victims by their society is a ‘social injustice”.



Fr Barr then talked about wages and poverty. He pointed out that everyone deserves a decent house, decent food, to be looked after when they are sick, and for families to be able to (have the money to) send their children to school. Nowadays, he said, people fill their tummies on noodles and similar food, but because it is not nutritious, they become ill eventually and/or do not have energy to carry out normal lives.

What can we do about it?

‘When wages are increased, or decent wages are given, people feel cared-for and respected; hence they respond positively.



THANK YOU



Father Barr's messages were well-received by the audience of young people and PD's members.

THANK YOU, Father Barr, for your persistence representation of Fiji's poor and disadvantaged.

