Mission Action Day, March 26, 2010

Mazenod College - Enter to Learn….Leave to Serve

Overcoming Poverty is not a gesture of Charity, it is an act of justice.

Mission Action Day is the most powerful demonstration of our solidarity (standing with) the poor. We know that in Australia, we have many opportunities and that we also have a responsibility to share.

Will we ever really help the poor if we don’t ask why they are poor?

Our focus on Mission Action Day is to do three things:
1. Raise awareness of poverty issues.
2. Raise finances for those in genuine need.
3. Have fun.

Over the past 15-20 years, the Mazenod Community has contributed over $600,000 to those in genuine need.

There are many families within our community who have overcome significant hardships just to be where they are now. They know the struggle that one faces when war, famine, disease, violence and oppression eat away at humanity.

The communities who have received the generosity of Mission Action Day have been from: Indonesia, Kenya, China, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, India, Laos and Australia.

Every family is asked to contribute as much as they can, however, the suggested total of $40 should be our minimum aim.

History is going to be our judge, but what is written is up to us. We live in a world where virtually no problem can be solved by individual action. And yet, in our world, no problem can be solved unless individuals act.

Mission Action Day provides a focus to our ongoing work of helping meet the Millennium Development Goals. These goals aim to end poverty.

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote Gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve mental health
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Is Poverty “not having” or “not knowing”?

St Eugene de Mazenod was a man who was passionately interested in helping the poorest of the poor. Traditionally poverty was seen as “not having” (property, food, shelter etc.) Poverty today can certainly include the not having but also it includes the not knowing. The “not knowing” can be terribly damaging to our growth. In a Christian sense, the “not knowing” refers to not knowing the Good News which is Jesus. It also includes the “not knowing” that God loves us. It is also “not knowing” that we have a fundamental responsibility to help those who are most abandoned.

Here at Mazenod College, the call to help the most abandoned is at the heart of our life.
Some of the Oblate Missions Helped by Mission Action Day
Thanks to your extraordinary generosity