





Dear Parishioners

Recently the Royal Commissioner on Human Rights, Mr Brian Burdekin, gave an address in Holy Name Parish Hall. He spoke largely about the growing problem of homeless youth in our society, and the link between this growing tragedy and troubled family backgrounds was very clear. Mr Burdekin stressed that local community initiatives are proving in many ways to be the most effective ways of supporting youth, especially those in trouble.

Our parish community contains so much potential to give support and offer a sense of a loving home to many - and some are in desperate need to experience this. We might prayerfully ask why is it that many teenage youth in our own Parish don't apparently identify with parish life?

Your participation in parish events like the ones advertised in this In Touch are simple but important ways of building our parish community. I hope you also make every effort to complete the survey. It will help your Parish Team in its deliberations.

May Our Lord's blessing be upon you and your families.

(Fr.) Kenn

A FAMILY FOR ALL

"When it was our 25th Wedding Anniversary the family group we belong to, gave us a surprise party, we could not get over it, we felt so happy with that many friends..."

"Our son Tim could not cope with school after his stay in hospital. One of the family group, a teacher, helped him with his homework and now Tim is among the best in his class...."

"When my wife had our 4th baby, members of our family group took charge of John, Lisa and Susan, so that Tricia and I could spend some time together with our new son, James..."

These are some of the stories people tell about family groups. It is like an extended family, consisting of 40-45 people including children, who as a group work out which activities they want to be involved in when they meet once a month. Together they can decide on whether to have a picnic, a games night, a sporting event, a birthday celebration - the possibilities are endless. The emphasis is on becoming friends and giving/receiving support in our day-to-day living.

Family groups are open to everyone, the motto is "A FAMILY FOR ALL", so single, divorced and widowed people are as welcome as couples both with and without children. Age is no barrier - babies, teenagers and grandparents alike are welcome, nor is a disability, religious orientation or family situation a hinderance.

Family groups began in 1973 in St Anthony's Parish, Terrey Hills, Sydney and have spread to about 100 Parishes. Port Macquarie is an example, the enthusiasm for the groups make more and more people wanting to join.

- Q.1 Do you believe that the family group movement has something to offer our Parish? What are your ideas?
- Α.

- Q.2 Do you have any ideas for the building up of Parish life?
- Α.

Please return to Zone Meeting or place in Suggestion Boxes in Church