

NCRC Newsletter

NATIONAL CATHOLIC RESEARCH COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 98 LEICHHARDT 2040 (02) 560-6150



Registered by Australian Post
Publication No. NAR 3811

VOL VIII, No. 4 DECEMBER, 1988

Chairperson: Dr J McCallum

Research Assistant: P Bentley

EDITORIAL

Our last newsletter spoke of decisions pending about NCRC and the research function of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. As recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Commission of 9 April, n. 4, and 28 November, 1988, n. 6, five motions have now been carried, namely:

1. "That Conference appoint a Research Officer who will be accountable to the Conference through the Conference Secretary who will allocate tasks which will have priority over other work undertaken by the Officer; that this Officer will keep the bishops aware of opportunities, needs and problems that already exist or are likely to arise in the Church and society; that this Officer's function in most cases will not be to do Research but to see that it is done; that in commissioning research this Officer will make use of existing research groups and where necessary ensure that other appropriate task forces are convened".
2. That the National Catholic Research Council, through the Research Officer appointed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, advises the Conference on research matters.
3. That the National Catholic Research Council be the responsibility of the Bishops Central Commission.
4. That the Research Officer maintain frequent contact with each member of the National Catholic Research Council which will meet two or three times annually and be serviced by the Research Officer and staff.
5. That the Secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference be chairman of the National Catholic Research Council which will consist of five or six distinguished experts from different research disciplines appointed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on the recommendation of the Central Commission.

The operations of NCRC will consequently remain in abeyance until the next Central Commission meeting in March, 1989.

These decisions of the Central Commission clearly give strong support to a research function for the Bishops Conference. This connection of a newly formulated NCRC to the Central Commission further emphasizes the importance of research, as well as its potential usefulness for pastoral concerns. The membership of the new NCRC by lay experts enhances contacts with the research community and maintains an essential dialogue with the broader Australian culture. On all these issues the NCRC has already presented submissions that are in agreement in principle. The previous NCRC will have no necessary connections with the newly constituted Committee; however, the traditions, networks and connections already established will be carried forward into new arrangements. We look forward to this new organisation of research for the Bishops Conference.

John McCallum
Chairman, NCRC.

* Please note: This is the last edition of the NCRC Newsletter. All current *
* readers will be notified of any new NCRC periodical and/or publications at the *
* appropriate time. Thank you to all those people who have contributed to and *
* supported the newsletter over the last twelve years. *

secularization as a theme within Australian history. Contributors in this issue include Dr. Bryan Wilson, Reader in Sociology at Oxford. The volume arose out of a series of seminar papers organised by The Department of Studies in Religion, University of Queensland.

T.O.P. is a twice yearly publication from Trinity Theological College. Single copies are available for \$7.50. For further information please contact T.O.P., G.P.O. Box 674, Brisbane, Qld, 4001.

Australian Religious Studies:

A Bibliography of Post-Graduate Theses 1922-1986 edited and compiled by Peter

Bentley, National Catholic Research Council 1988 pp 100 Rrp \$6.50

Includes postage anywhere in Australia.

This comprehensive bibliography contains 661 references covering particular churches, religious groups and movements within the broad area of religion in Australia. Some theses completed at overseas institutions are also included. There is a growing wealth of postgraduate studies and this bibliography is an attempt to list and categorize the research to date.

For orders please send the following form (or a photocopy) with your payment made out to NCRC to:

NCRC P.O. BOX 98, LEICHHARDT NSW 2040.

.....

Please forward copies of
Australian Religious Studies: A
Bibliography of Post-Graduate Theses
1922-1986 to:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

I have enclosed payment of

ORGANISATIONS

The Social Justice and Health Project

The Catholic Social Justice Commission (Archdiocese of Perth) is presently co-ordinating three major projects.

1. Women in the Church.
2. Prisons and Criminal Justice.
3. Social Justice and Health.

Part of the Social Justice and Health Project consists of a Programme of Public Meetings. The proceedings of these meetings (held between July - September 1988) will be made available in a published form at a later stage. A range of experts presented papers covering ethical issues and the concerns of specific groups. Notice of the book will be given in a future newsletter. For the present any enquiries can be directed to The Catholic Social Justice Commission, 459 Hay Street, Perth W.A. 6000.

The International Project on Family and Community (IPOFAC)

arose out of Anglican Consultative Council concern for the many difficulties presently faced by families throughout the world.

IPOFAC enables the member churches of the Anglican Communion the opportunity to exchange information and express their concern in written form and through consultations. The mission of St James and St John in Melbourne is the Co-ordinating organisation for the project. Reports, papers and information bulletins are published regularly.

A literature search (thematic categories) is also available at service cost. The latest Occasional Papers are No. 5 "Days of our Lives: The Effects of Media Portrayals of Family and Personal Life" and No. 6 "The Journey of the Daughters of Eve and May: Women in the Modern World". A publications list will be sent on request. Contact: IPOFAC, Mission of St James and St. John, 12 Batman Street, West Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3003.
