

ROMAN CATHOLIC

MISSIONARY

CHILDHOOD

ENVIRONMENTAL

PROJECT

Name of Project:

Roman Catholic Missionary Childhood Environmental Project

Contact Person:

Rt. Rev Bishop Albert Serrano OR Nigel T Chitombo

E-mail Address:

romancatholic.church@yahoo.com

Area of Operation:

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Background:

While poverty is endemic in many parts of the world; in our community here in Zimbabwe, it has reached alarming and catastrophic levels. This wide-spread poverty has spawned serious social problems such as a rapid escalation in prostitution with the attendant rise in incidents of HIV/AIDS. It is estimated that one in every five Zimbabweans is HIV positive. The AIDS pandemic is decimating the population, particularly what is supposed to be the most productive age group those between the ages of 18 to 30. Life expectancy has been pegged at 25 by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Anti-Retroviral drugs are not readily available in our community and in any case are out of the reach of most people living with HIV/AIDS. Our Environmental project is a community-based project for trees and herbs. The trees and herbs grown by our project have leaves that are exceptionally nutritious for HIV Positive people at all ages.

Escalation of serious environmental problems has also resulted e.g. deforestation due to the constant power outages in our community. Our project has very little space to grow trees and as a result we work in conjunction with schools, hospitals, forests and orphanages to better our afforestation initiatives.

Through our project we try to raise environmental awareness through, ART, STORY-TELLING and DRAMA. We have spoken on local radio, and been interviewed by 2 national papers. Our meetings are held every Sunday after church, and we talk about issues on how we can further improve our project, fundraising activities and any events that we could go to; to raise awareness or sensitize people. Decisions in our group are made with each person having one vote. Any disagreements are put to the vote: no one is the boss. Our project works in effective partnership with Non-governmental

organizations, community-based organizations as well as the government to achieve our objectives.

Objectives:

- To create environmental awareness amongst pupils and the community in general.
- To increase the knowledge of pupils interested in environmental-related careers
- To build the capacity of young people to tackle local environmental problems.
- To enhance the quality of lives for people living with HIV/AIDS by providing them with herbs since Anti-Retroviral drugs are not readily available in our community.
- To promote environmental principles and practices by sharing experiences and offering assistance to others.

Membership:

Membership shall be voluntary, free and open to the whole community.

Members shall subscribe to the Group's constitution and objectives.

The Roman Catholic Missionary Childhood shall reserve the right to accept or reject membership.

Funding:

Source of funding for the Roman Catholic Missionary Childhood shall be from:

- Fund-raising activities agreed and approved by the Gorup.
- Grants, gifts, donations from within and outside Zimbabwe.
- Business projects run by the group and/or community-based self help projects