

# That you act justly . . .

[Br John Deeney](#)

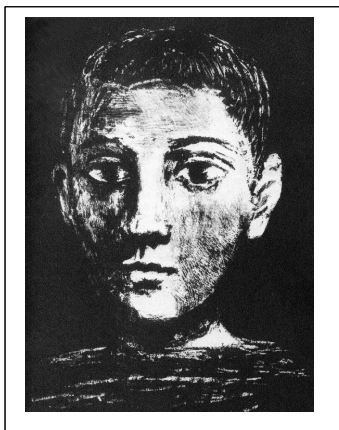
## Fair everything:

While we have a well-established Fair Trade movement we do seem to lack a global Fair Election movement. At the turn of the year Kenya erupted into violence as the result of an apparently manipulated election. It is a clear example of how lack of justice destroys peace. From being a country often praised as an example of what can be achieved in Africa, it degenerated into another example of random violence and ethnic strife. But the change should not have come as that much of a surprise. The levels of corruption in Kenya over many years have led to immense frustration and the latest unfair manipulations proved the last straw for many poor people who had suffered from the mismanagement. The roots of the ethnic problems go back over many decades but the British involvement in the region is also part of the cause.

What is particularly important now is that international pressure is put on rogue governments (even ones that we might find useful to us) to change their ways. Support that was once given to corrupt regimes by the governments of 'free' countries should no longer be tolerated.

It is less than satisfactory to note that the standards of electioneering in the US and our own problems with peerages and donations to political parties do not set the best example to others.

The Pope's New Year message was titled: The Human Family, a community of peace. Obviously this is less of a description and more of an aspiration. He identifies the family unit as the basic form of communion between persons but goes on to say: "the peoples of the earth too, are called to build relationships of solidarity and cooperation among themselves, as befits members of one human family." There's a programme that will last for longer than the year.



## Campaigning for justice:

It is usually difficult to campaign for justice without taking some risks. The lives of Martin Luther King and Oscar Romero show how great the risks can be. Even the investigation of murky areas and a search for transparency can be risky ventures. But without this activity it is impossible for the 'human family' to take on its responsibilities. We could focus on one illustration of this at the present time. A journalist and cameraman working for ARTE have been arrested in Niger and are threatened with a trial which could result in the death penalty. Thomas Dandois and Pierre Creisson were investigating the situation in northern Niger where there are serious unreported problems which the government does not want revealed. These two experienced reporters are suffering the consequences of this policy and have been in gaol since December and need as much support as can be given. Thomas is the nephew of Bella Harding of LAMB. There is a website where more information can be found and, more importantly, where a petition may be signed. [www.pierre.thomas.alhassane.info](http://www.pierre.thomas.alhassane.info)

*Since writing the above the two journalists have been returned to France (because of an effective petition?) but their driver, a local man, remains in prison.*

## Lasallian aims:

Br. Alvaro's recent pastoral letter refers to the UN Millennium Declaration and situates the Lasallian Mission in a global context alongside the aims of that international body. He quotes our own 2006 International Assembly and mentions how these aspirations were adopted by the General Chapter of 2007:

"We value the efforts that we Lasallians are making to free the poor from the different types of poverty and we ask that you consider service of the poor and the promotion of justice as the heart and the cause of the strengthening of the Lasallian mission in the world."

***Who will speak for the poor and the broken?  
Who will speak for the peoples oppressed?  
Who will speak so their voice can be heard?  
Who will speak if you don't?***

*from a hymn based on words of Oscar Romero:  
picture by Picasso*