



COLUMBAN MISSION INSTITUTE



Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice

Making connections between
Peace, Ecology and Justice from
the Gospel perspective

Growing a Culture of Peace monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!

From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!

No 11, November 2014: "The Importance of Being Recognised "

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Growing a Culture of Peace Monthly Bulletin

11 "The Importance of Being Recognised "

November 2nd, All Soul's Day John 6:37

Reflection: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away"

One of the greatest challenges of being a follower of Jesus is living out the importance of recognising the dignity of each and every person, indeed each and every aspect of life. We tend to think only of our immediate family and social circles. But if we think that each and every child born into life deserves love for who he or she is no matter where they live and in what circumstances they live, then that is mind boggling. Very often we reject the "other" as an outsider, not in our "in" group. The amazing thing about reflecting on this passage in John's Gospel is that Jesus showed us the way by welcoming the marginalised people in his society. This includes remembering those who have died for their dignity in death as in life. We need to learn the importance of recognising the "Other".

Fact File: Children from poor families have it tough. Their parents struggle to feed them let alone get an education. Often the children end up being trafficked within their own country or overseas as sex or labour slaves. They deserve a decent life. Columbans in the Philippines know about this.

Learn More: Fr Shay Cullen through the Preda Foundation in Olongapo north of Manila has been working for over 30 years to get action in prosecuting sex tourists, including those from Australia, who abuse children. www.preda.org Fr Brian Gore, through the Negros Nine Foundation supports awareness raising and education programs on the island of Negros. www.negrosnine.com/project-trafficking

Take Action: Go to the Preda Foundation and the Negros Nine Foundation websites to see how you can recognise the dignity of the "other" children in the Philippines.



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