Dear Parents and Families, Staff and Children

The May Day long weekend in the Northern territory and some of the states celebrates Labour Day - the importance of justice and equity of opportunity for all workers. It is not meant to be only an occasion for unions to protest about their current concerns. It should also be a time to reflect on the dignity of work, and to celebrate what has been achieved in the last century to restore this dignity to workers by ensuring just wages and safe workplaces and practices. This is particularly Important for Aboriginal people who were denied just working conditions and equal wages for a very long period in Australia’s relative short history from 1788.

Catholic Social Teaching has long promoted this dignity of work, and has also recognised the place and role of the Trade Union Movement: Work remains a good thing, not only because it is useful and enjoyable, but also because it expresses and increases the worker’s dignity. Through work we not only transform the world, we are transformed ourselves becoming ‘more a human being’ (On Human Work #9). The Church fully supports the rights of workers to form unions or other associations to ensure their rights to fair wages and working conditions. In the words of Pope John Paul II ‘The experience of history teaches that organisations of this type are an indispensable element of social life, especially in modern industrial societies’. (Economic Justice for All #104)

Recently Pope Francis spoke out against the unjust working conditions that currently still exist in parts of our world and referred to these as ‘slave labour’. Pope Francis said: “Today in the world this slavery is being committed against something beautiful that God has given us – the capacity to create, to work, to have a dignity. Not paying fair wages, not giving a job because you are only looking at balance sheets – only looking at how to make a profit – that goes against God”.

We thank God this week for the opportunity to work, and for the just conditions that most Australians enjoy. One way we can express this gratitude to God is to be honest workers remembering that through our work we share in the creative nature of God.

May Jesus and Mary bless all the members of the Ltyentye Apurte school family at Santa Teresa.

Yours sincerely

In JMJ

Br Daniel (Principal)

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following children who received awards at the assembly last Wednesday: Jessie Ronson; Tahneya Ronson; Shaniqua Smith; Connie Ryder; Jordan Wilyuka; Roy McDonald; Ezekial Hayes; Stoney Douglas; Claudia Oliver; Leocardia Ngurrwuthun; Lesharna Young; Jermaine Williams; Teresa Laughton; Nadine Oliver; Graham Abbott & Kelly Smith.

Welcome

Welcome to the group of students and staff from Mt Maria College in Brisbane who are visiting Santa Teresa this week.
Lunch Break

School is closed between 1.00pm and 2.00pm each day and children should not be in the school grounds. An increasing number of children are returning too early – some before 1.30pm. no child should return before 1.45pm when there is a teacher on supervision from 1.45pm – 2.00pm.