

Ethical Encounter – Housing

On Tuesday 3rd of October 2017, the Edmund Rice Justice Trust held another ethical encounter breakfast on housing, this time in Christchurch. It was presented by John Minto, a well-known social justice advocate. Throughout his life, John has been involved in a lot of New Zealand issues, such as the 1981 Springbok Tour and brought many wonderful insights into the issue of housing, particularly as it related to Canterbury housing post-earthquake and the social justice implications our current housing crisis has for many families.

There was a lot of robust discussion around the table that produced a critical exploration about how the many social justice issues are interlinked – such as income inequality, taxes and housing itself. We would like to thank John for taking the time to come and present on this pressing social justice issue in the community and we would like to also thank all those who came and participated.

*Boris Baptist
Edmund Rice Justice Aotearoa/New Zealand Trust*





Edmund Rice Street Retreat

From Thursday October 5th to Saturday October 7th, the annual Edmund Rice Street Retreat was held at St Thomas' of Canterbury College.

The annual Street Retreat is sponsored by the Edmund Rice Justice Trust. This year we had 26 Year 12 students participate in the programme. They came from Kavanagh College, Liston College, St Kevin's College, St Thomas' of Canterbury College and Villa Maria College.

The street retreat offers the students the chance to explore the many social justice issues in our community and to work with organisations such as the Salvation Army, St Vincent De Paul, Pathways Reintegration, Community Law Canterbury, The Christchurch City Mission and St John of God Rehabilitation Hospital. The experience also included interactive talks with the Christchurch Police and social justice advocate John Minto where they talked in depth about many of the issues faced in communities right across New Zealand.

In their evaluations, students commented on how well run and enjoyable the experience was. The retreat included providing a dinner for 8 people on a budget of \$10 and sleeping rough during some cold and wet Christchurch nights.

Thank all the staff who took the time to organise and help run the street retreats and the students who attended and very enthusiastically participated.

Boris Baptist

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