



**Jesuit Social Services  
Just Leadership Breakfast Series  
2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009**

**Guest speakers Frank Brennan SJ and Tim Costello**

At 7am on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009, young professionals from around Melbourne gathered on the 34<sup>th</sup> floor of the National Australia Bank (NAB) in the heart of Melbourne for the launch of the Jesuit Social Services **Just Leadership Breakfast Series**.

With the suburbs of Melbourne as a backdrop, the MC for the morning, James Talia of Channel 9 News, welcomed the audience by saying, "I am here, hopefully for the same reason as you are – the name and concept of the event drew me in and the more I talked with Jesuit Social Services about the idea and ideals of Just Leadership, the more I wanted to know and the more keen I became about being involved".

The guest speakers for the morning were Frank Brennan SJ and Tim Costello, two National Living Treasures and leaders of human rights initiatives in Australia. In a relaxed conversation style presentation the speakers discussed with the 100 strong audience the theme for the morning: "it is the task of each generation to work out what it means to build a just society".

Both Frank Brennan and Tim Costello spoke candidly about their experiences, their feelings and their perspective on the current events which shape our society. It was obvious that this topic had captured people's interest and there was a common sentiment that the recent events and current problems, such as the global financial crisis, the Victorian bushfires and climate change also present an opportunity to imagine a different future - one we can be proud of. The Just Leadership Breakfasts provide an opportunity for a dialogue where the idea of a more just society is a shared vision for that future.

Those gathered at such an early hour chatted around tables about their hopes for the series, many agreeing that they felt that this was a critical time for a discussion of this nature. Some took the opportunity to pose questions to both speakers, adding depth to the conversation. Marcus Coleman, a young marketing professional, asked about decision making which involves both the head and the heart. Another asked about practical ways young people can make a difference and work toward building a just society. Frank Brennan suggested that everyone should take three days each year to do something out of their comfort zone, and then spend a day reflecting on that experience.

The concept of being a just leader and how people may lead from wherever they sit in society was well received by the group. The speakers conveyed how important it is to build a strong character and values base in order to make just and moral decisions throughout one's life. Many in attendance were inspired by the conversation and there has already been overwhelming interest in the remaining three breakfasts in this series.

The Just Leadership Breakfast series is a Jesuit Social Services initiative, organised in partnership with the NAB and in collaboration with Mallesons Stephen Jaques and the City of Melbourne. The next breakfast will take place on June 4<sup>th</sup> with speakers Jane Tewson and Peter Ellyard. For more information please contact David Renouf on (03) 9427 7388 or [justleadership@jss.org.au](mailto:justleadership@jss.org.au)