

"I visited them recently; they were depressed and anxious because they don't know what is going to happen to them, and very worried about the well-being of their families in Vietnam."

Organiser Sarah Ross, from the Refugee Rights Action Network, said it was important to raise awareness about the "human rights

"We wanted to hold this vigil to raise awareness and to inform the public about the issues still going on in Vietnam and the plight of asylum seekers in Australia at the moment."

Parish priest of Kalamunda Fr Greg Donovan told *The Record* he was concerned with the lack of media coverage regarding the

more informed about the plight of asylum seekers.

seemed to be designed to frighten the local community.

"It is my fervent prayer that Catholics will become more informed about the plight of asylum seekers and recognise that a Gospel response is called for."

While the government avoids the issue, Catholics should get involved in raising awareness of such situations, Fr Sean said.

"We have a strong social justice teaching and tradition," he said. "Our faith teaches us about the one-

nonouncing us on the ground."

"We are a people who, in the past, have welcomed migrants and refugees; their contribution to this country has been enormous," he said. "Can we not, today, extend a welcome and provide a new beginning for our latest arrivals?"

Dolan urges US reform - page 8

Perth ready to help Filipino brothers and sisters

PERTH-based Catholic groups have rallied to help Filipinos devastated by Typhoon Haiyan.

An estimated four million people have been affected by the typhoon which struck the country's eastern islands on November 8, with deaths estimated at upwards of 10,000.

Local Somascan priests have shared appeal reports reflecting the full scale of the devastation from their conferees in the region.

"Thousands dead and are dying, no shelter left to come home, helplessness and a sense of despair linger in people's faces," one of the reports said.

Somascan based in the Philippines will give financial donations they collect directly to Archbishop John Du, the bishop of Leyte, one of the country's worst affected islands.

Ruby Soh, organiser for the Perth-based Filipino charity Buckets for Jesus, was at the epicentre of the disaster in the two weeks prior to November 8 when the typhoon hit.

The charity distributed donated goods to communities still reeling from October 15's 7.1 magnitude earthquake which claimed 107 lives on Leyte's neighbouring island of Bohol.

"It was traumatic to come back and see this happening again," the Philippines-born Mrs Soh,



Perth Catholic Kamila Soh, right, from Buckets for Jesus during a mission to a shanty town in Cebu in the Philippines earlier this year. The group is accepting goods to take to the country in around a weeks time. PHOTO: NICHOLAS SCOTT

who witnessed many of the earthquake's aftershocks during the trip, told *The Record*, "Government agencies find it difficult to reach

rural communities but we were able to do it, to find another route." "We gave them goods and prayed with people and uplifted them."

Their homes had been destroyed by the earthquake and we were very, very worried about them because they had been living in tents."

You can help! Donate now

Caritas Typhoon Haiyan Aid Response

The international Caritas network is responding quickly with shelter, clean water, sanitation, hygiene and household relief.

www.caritas.org.au
or call 1800 024 413.

Mrs Soh and her team are preparing to return in around a weeks time with two more containers of goods donated by people in Western Australia and Singapore. Buckets for Jesus works through a network of local parishes, using land vehicles and a boat to reach isolated communities.

"The containers are not filled up yet but we are hoping that they will. We're just going to do it by faith and believe that kindhearted people will come through," Mrs Soh said.

More information is available at the group's website www.bucketsforjesus.org and their Facebook page HELP: Typhoon Haiyan or by calling 9388 9677.