

Good News from the MISSIONS OFFICE

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

710 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

February 2011

Where all hungers shall be satisfied

Making [a] connection between Eucharist and hunger is not an artificial straining to be relevant. For, as Monika Hellwig reminds us, the desire for Eucharist is anthropologically based on the profound experience of hunger. This basic need, too often forgotten in supermarket societies like ours where most of us are never hungry for more than a couple hours, this basic need preys upon the lives of most people in the Third World today. For most people in most new nations are hungry most of the time. They are so hungry with this obsession for a few crumbs of bread or a handful of rice that they cannot concentrate on anything else. Only if we can share their hunger — by voluntary fasting, for instance — can we experience the fullness of Eucharist. For the Eucharist answers to several hungers on many human levels, all of which presuppose that we have helplessly and obsessively experienced the simplest pangs of physical hunger. If we know what hunger for very life is, then we can learn what hunger for the fullness of life might be. The experience of hunger stretches us out to share the common hunger of millions in our world and drives us deep into human hungers on many levels. Only after such primal experiences of hunger are we ready to enter into the hungers for communion, for nourishment of spirit, and for sustenance on our mission as Christians.

All of these hungers are satisfied in the symbolic action of sharing Christ in the Eucharist.

What precisely is this symbolic action? Is it "receiving the host"? Is it "drinking from the cup"? Is it "encountering Christ at the altar"? All of these phrases touch on the truth, but they do not convey the full "significance" (sign-with-meaning) of this central human sacrament: *sharing Christ as food*. The simple human activity of "sharing food" becomes both the answer to our spiritual hunger



and points us beyond ourselves toward the principal solution to the physical hungers of the world. We who are rarely hungry must share Christ as food so that we may share our food with others who are always hungry. The very sign in the Eucharist (as in all the sacraments, I am suggesting) — the very sign points and propels us to the type of activity that Christ in the sacrament wants to bring about.

In traditional terms, theologians told us that sacraments "cause what they signify"; the Eucharist "signifies" sharing Christ as food and thereby "causes" us to share food for Christ. As Cardinal Gracias forewarned us at the 1964 Eucharistic Congress in Bombay: "To wish to unite [everyone] in the partaking of 'spiritual' bread, without at the same time providing 'material' bread, is only a dream."

Thus, one of the primary effects of the Eucharist, beyond uniting us with the body of Christ in his real presence and in his presence in the mystical body, is to drive us into solidarity with the hungriest members of his body. Recognizing Christ in the breaking of the bread

at Mass in our parishes should urge us to recognize him in the bodies of people broken for lack of bread in the ghettos of Calcutta. Conversely, our sharing in the hungers of the world should deepen our need for nourishment, communion, and apostolic strength found in the Eucharist. To receive Christ at a banquet is to be

reminded and required to make a banquet possible for more and more people -- both for their sake now and as a preparation of all of us to share in an everlasting banquet where all hungers shall be satisfied.

"One of the primary effects of the Eucharist...is to drive us into solidarity with the hungriest members of Christ's body."

Excerpted with permission from "Toward a Sacrament of the World" in Spirituality Today, Spring 1985, by David J. Leigh, SJ. Fr. Leigh teaches English at Seattle University and assists in parishes on week-ends. Art by Lee Miller.



Jubilee Economics Workshop (free)

All pastors, pastoral staff and ministers who are interested in exploring Jubilee Economics from a biblical, spiritual and communal perspective are invited to a free workshop.

February 17th — 10am-12pm

Seattle First Baptist Church, Seattle (1111 Harvard Ave)

Registration is required, lunch will be provided for

registered participants. Workshop content:

- Tools for preaching and teaching about alternative economics
- The economic challenges of our congregations (programs, staff, buildings) and the increased need for services and resources for congregation members
- Economic disparity: how we address it within our congregations

Information and registration:

www.ipjc.org/events/JubileeEconomicsBrochure.pdf



Operación Plato de Arroz/ Operation Rice Bowl

Reflexion pre-cuaresmal/ A pre-Lent reflection event

February 26, 10am – noon

Location: in the greater Seattle area

A free presentation (in Spanish) for parishioners, catechists, staff and leadership, led by Maria Arroyo of Catholic Relief Services. Flyer in Spanish for view and download:

www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions. Contact persons: Isaac

Govea (206) 382-4825; Patricia Repikoff (425) 205-2678; o José

Ramírez-Lomeli (206) 654-4644.

Note: Parishes and schools have ordered the CRS Spanish-language Rice Bowl materials through us in the Missions Office (see below). If any community needs more materials (free!), please contact us. Resource materials also available at: <http://orb.crs.org/es>.



Explore My Mission video contest

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers invite you to celebrate their 100th Anniversary in 2011 by entering the Explore My Mission contest. The winners will visit Maryknoll missionaries and projects in Asia from July 2nd to July 13th, 2011.

Upload at <http://exploremymission.org> a 3-minute or less video showing your commitment to the life of service in sharing God's love. Upload deadline: April 9, 2011.

JustFAITH JustFaith Graduates

Spring 2011 gathering: May 14.

Details will be emailed to all graduates in the Archdiocese of Seattle. Questions? Contact us in the Missions Office (below).



Parish Social Ministry Gathering

March 25-26, 2011, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

A weekend conferences for parish (and diocesan) leaders to learn more about the Catholic social mission and to discover effective strategies to respond to need and injustice in our communities.

The gathering provides the opportunity to:

- Renew your sense of personal and collective call to follow Christ's example
- Deepen your understanding of the theological and spiritual foundations of the Catholic social mission and its manifestation in parish social ministry
- Develop leadership skills effective in parish social ministry
- Connect with people and resources in our region

Sponsored by Catholic Charities USA (small scholarships available from CCUSA).

More information and to register:

www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org/NetCommunity/PSMtraining.



Africa Connections Conference

April 2, 2011, Saturday

At: Mary Queen of Peace church, Sammamish.

For parishes and other communities in the Archdiocese of Seattle involved in partnerships

in Africa — and for any others simply interested in Africa!

Admission: free. Bring brown bag lunch. Please visit

www.catholicafrikanconnections.org for information and to register.



Catholic Advocacy Day 2011

All parishioners and staff, and Catholic service and justice organizations are invited to attend this annual event to ensure that the Gospel message to care for our brothers and sisters is heard loud and clear in Olympia. Travel to the State Capitol for program and legislative briefing before scheduled appointments with your legislators. 2 FREE chartered buses for registered participants (from Seattle & Tacoma)

Thursday, March 24th • 9am – 3pm • Olympia

To register: Contact IPJC, ipjc@ipjc.org or 206.223.1138.

Event flyer @ www.ipjc.org.

Sponsored by: Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center, Washington State Catholic Conference, Catholic Community Services, Archdiocese of Seattle, and the Pierce County Deanery. (Also: see page six of this newsletter.)

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Distributed to Catholic leadership in the Archdiocese of Seattle and those concerned with the needs of the poor, locally and internationally.

Much of this newsletter, and other resources, can be found at:

www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions

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Praying with the Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Reader 1: We ask forgiveness for the times when we have not worshipped you and made your name holy, when we have been caught up in the desire to have more.

All: We pray that we may be open to hearing your voice and inspired to work for economic justice.

All: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reader 2: We ask forgiveness for the times when we have not promoted the full dignity of men and women.

All: We pray in hope that discrimination and prejudice will give way to welcoming all people to your banquet.

All: Give us this day our daily bread.

Reader 3: We ask forgiveness for the times we have not shared our resources with others.

All: We pray that we may be generous both with our possessions and our gifts, and to live lives of solidarity.

All: And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Reader 4: We ask forgiveness for the times we have not been in right relationship with others.

All: We pray that your spirit of reconciliation may be made real within us.

All: And lead us not into temptation.

Reader 5: We ask forgiveness for the times when we have not believed that our actions could make a difference.

All: We pray that we may work towards the common good, knowing that you are with us always.

All: But deliver us from evil.

Reader 6: We ask forgiveness for the times we have dismissed the sin of environmental injustice.

All: We pray that we may have the courage and conviction to act now to prevent further destruction to God's beautiful planet.

All: For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever.

Reader 7: We ask forgiveness for the times we have prevented others from flourishing, from reaching their full potential.

All: We pray for a child-like spirit, open to the wonder of creation and the diversity of peoples, since the glory of God is the whole of creation and the whole of humanity, fully alive. Amen.



Disciples for All Nations

In the Archdiocese of Seattle this Lent, households in **every** parish and classrooms in many schools are placing the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls on tables and desks. The prayer below, printed on the cardboard Rice Bowl and on the Home Calendar Guide in English and Spanish, will be shared daily throughout the archdiocese.

The Home Calendar Guides this year were inserted into the cardboard Rice Bowls, introducing Catholic social teaching, Scripture readings, stories of self-development, as well as some tasty and interesting recipes from around the world. Last year donations from our fasting, prayer, learning and almsgiving provided over **\$372,928.71** for food programs in western Washington and for CRS development projects overseas!

Educator Guides and Coordinator Guides have been distributed to volunteer leaders, parish staff and catechists, and school faculties. These materials are also included on a new-this-year CD-Rom/DVD with short videos for group/classroom use. All of the resources, including a special Stations of the Cross are available at the CRS Rice Bowl web site: <http://orb.crs.org>.

Our **THANKS** to all of you who participate in and promote this Lenten faith formation program!

Operation Rice Bowl Prayer

**We lift our prayers to you, God of Love, on behalf of our brothers and sisters in need.
As we learn about their struggles, our almsgiving comes to their aid;
our fasting unites us in their hunger.
You call us to be disciples for all nations.
Bless us this Lenten season.
Amen.**



"When Jesus took the bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and shared it, he demonstrated, unforgettably, the proper use of all material things. The early Christians realized this: They 'eucharistized' their lives by blessing God in all things and by making their possessions available to one another. And when Jesus took the cup and gave thanks to God and passed it among his disciples, he rediscovered for the human race the joy of not claiming anything for one's own – not even life itself."

— Mark Searle
in *Liturgy and Social Justice*



"Our faith is not just a weekend obligation, a mystery to be celebrated around the altar on Sunday. It is a pervasive reality to be practiced every day in homes, offices, factories, schools, and businesses across our land."

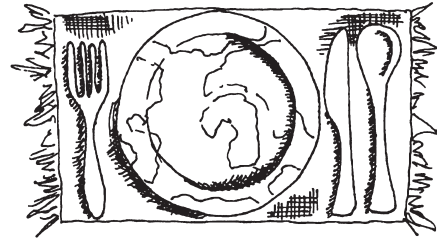
— From *Economic Justice for All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy*

This year is the 25th anniversary of the landmark statement on economic matters by the U.S. bishops.

The full text, and more, can be found at www.usccb.org/jphd/economiclife/teaching.shtml

World Awareness Quiz

Catholic Relief Services / Operation Rice Bowl
(Adapted slightly by your Missions Office – see #9)



- Today, _____ of the world's employed population is living on less than \$1 per day.
 - 5 percent
 - 13 percent
 - 18 percent
- Every day, almost _____ children die from hunger-related causes.
 - 16,000
 - 8,000
 - 2,000
- More than _____ of chronically hungry people are women.
 - 25%
 - 40%
 - 60%
- For every 1,000 children born around the world, _____ do not live to reach the age of five.
 - 5 children
 - 67 children
 - 18 children
- _____ million children of primary school age are not enrolled in school.
 - 101 million
 - 45 million
 - 150 million
- The immediate cause of food insecurity is:
 - An insufficient availability of food
 - A lack of physical and economic access to food
 - A poor biological absorption (or use of) food
 - All of the above.
- CRS supports _____ active and integrated health programs around the world which bring food, clean water, health facilities, education and medical treatment to people who are most in need.
 - 120
 - 65
 - 90
- What can I do to assist my brothers and sisters around the world who struggle with hunger, poverty and a lack of basic rights and necessities?
 - Participate in Operation Rice Bowl
 - Hold a Food Fast
 - Join Catholics Confront Global Poverty
 - All of the above
- In 2010, _____ Rice Bowl grants were made to food banks and other hunger and poverty fighting organizations in western Washington.
 - 184
 - 156
 - 175

World Awareness Quiz Answers

- (c) Today, **18 percent** of the world's population is living on less than \$1 per day. The majority of these people live in Sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania, and Southern Asia. (United Nations)
- (a) Every day **16,000** children die from hunger. That's nearly one child every 5 seconds. (Bread for the World)
- (c) Hunger manifests itself in many ways other than starvation and famine. Most people who battle hunger deal with chronic undernourishment and vitamin or mineral deficiencies, which result in stunted growth, weakness and heightened susceptibility to illness. More than **60%** of chronically hungry people are women. (World Food Program)
- (b) For every 1,000 live births, **67 children** do not live to reach the age of five. Malnutrition, poor sanitation, and disease all contribute to high rates of child mortality. (United Nations)
- (a) **101 million children** are not enrolled in primary school. More than half of these children are girls. (UNICEF)
- (d) **All of the above.** There are a wide variety of factors that lead to food insecurity, but the three immediate causes are an insufficient availability of food, a lack of physical or economic access to food, and a poor biological absorption of food. For CRS, food security is defined as *"people having physical and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs for a productive and healthy life today without sacrificing investments in livelihood security tomorrow."* (Catholic Relief Services)
- (a) CRS supports nearly **120 active and integrated health programs** around the world which primarily serve socioeconomically disadvantaged communities with poor health statistics and lack of access to quality health services. (Catholic Relief Services)
- (d) **All of the above.** Visit <http://orb.crs.org> for more information on how your prayers, fasting, learning, and giving through Operation Rice Bowl can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in need. Visit www.foodfast.org to learn about Catholic Relief Services' 24-hour hunger awareness program for Catholic youth (many of our parishes participate!). Visit <http://crs.org/globalpoverty> to learn about *Catholics Confront Global Poverty*. Add your name to help us reach our goal of 1 million Catholics participating in this initiative. (Get your parish or school to conduct a sign-up event!)
- (a) **184!** Visit the Missions Office website, www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions, for a full listing of the grants made, and to view the grant application materials. (Also listed on our customized Rice Bowl placemat!)

This quiz (original form) in English and Spanish can be found online at <http://orb.crs.org/resources/education-resources>. The above version, on two pages, can be found at our "Rice Bowl" link at www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions.

The Faithful in Public Life

(Adapted from resource from www.educationforjustice.org.)

The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society... is proper to the lay faithful. **As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity.** So they cannot relinquish their participation "in the many different economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural areas, which are intended to promote organically and institutionally the common good." **The mission of the lay faithful is therefore to configure social life correctly**, respecting its legitimate autonomy and cooperating with other citizens according to their respective competences and fulfilling their own responsibility. Even if the specific expressions of ecclesial charity can never be confused with the activity of the State, it still remains true that charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as "social charity."

— Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love), #29

Reflection

How am I doing in living up to my responsibility as a Christian and a citizen to "take part in public life" and to help to "configure social life correctly" so that the common good is promoted in our economic, social, legislative, administrative, and cultural structures, practices, and institutions?

Prayer

God, help me to take to heart Pope Benedict XVI's call to "take part in public life in a personal capacity." I know that I cannot cast aside the political realm as "too complicated" or "too depressing" because.... I am co-responsible for the well-being of my human family. Give me hope and strength, and propel me to take part in "configur[ing] society correctly."

Legislature in Session: Washington State Catholic Conference Sets Priorities



Faithful
Citizenship

The Washington State Legislature convened on Monday, January 10th for a 105 day session scheduled to end on April 24th. Between these two dates, spending cuts in both the supplemental and biennial budgets are the grim reality for legislators and advocates alike.

Facing a projected \$4.6 billion budget deficit for the 2011-2013 biennium, Governor Gregoire released a proposed budget in December that includes significant funding cuts for human services and education. The "no new taxes" mantra from the electorate was heard loud and clear by the Governor as she prepared both her supplemental and biennial budgets. Facing unprecedented deficits, only a few people will be untouched by the cuts recommended. Parks and prisons, social services and schools, and all sections of government will feel the impact.

Over the next few months advocates will lobby to retain specific programs. The preservation of the safety net for the most vulnerable people is the top budget priority for the Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC).

To view WSCC's legislative priorities (Budget, Catholic Schools, Children & Families, Criminal Justice, Economic Justice, Environment, Health Care, Housing, Life Issues, and Long Term Care) visit: www.thewsc.org/advocacy-center. At that site one can also sign up to receive Action Alerts (and to "take part in public life in a personal capacity"). To join the Catholic Advocacy Network and receive alerts on issues that are vital to the poor and vulnerable people of our state, visit the WSCC website www.thewsc.org and click on "Join the Network".

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