

Good News from the MISSIONS OFFICE

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

710 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

May 2011

Easter us

by Walter Brueggemann

You God who terrified the waters,
 who crashed your thunder,
 who shook the earth, and
 scared the wits out of chaos.
You God who with strong arm saved your people
 by miracle and wonder and majestic act.
You are the same God to whom we turn,
 we turn in our days of trouble,
 and in our weary nights;
 we look for steadfast love and are dismayed,
 we wait for your promises, but wait in fatigue,
 we ponder your forgetfulness and lack of
 compassion,
 and we grow silent.
Our lives, addressed to you,
 have this bitter-sweet taste of
 loud-clashing miracles and weak-kneed
 doubt.
So we come in our bewilderment and
wonderment,
 deeply trusting, almost afraid to trust
 much,
 passionately insisting, too timid to insist
 much,
 fervently hoping, exhausted for hoping
 too much.
Look upon us in our deep need,
 mark the wounds of our brothers and sisters just
 here,
 notice the turmoil in our lives, and the lives of
 our families,
 credit the incongruity of the rich and the poor in
 our very city,

 and the staggering injustices abroad in
 our land,

 tend to the rage out of control, rage justified by
 displacement,
 rage gone crazy by absence, silence, and
 deprivation,
 measure the suffering,
 count the sufferers,
 number the wounds.
You tamer of chaos and mender of all tears in the canvas
of creation,
 we ponder your suffering,
 your crown of thorns,
 your garment taken in lottery,
 your mocked life,
 and now we throw upon your suffering
 humiliation,
 the suffering of the world.
You defeater of death, whose power could not hold you,
 come in your Easter,
 come in your sweeping victory,
 come in your glorious new life.
Easter us,
 salve wounds,
 break injustice,
 bring peace,
 guarantee neighbor,
Easter us in joy and strength.
Be our God, be your true self, lord of life,
 massively turn our life toward your life
 and away from our anti-neighbor, anti-self
 deathliness.
Hear our thankful, grateful, unashamed Hallelujah!
Amen.



Mission Forum Challenge of Peace in the Holy Land

The Maryknoll Mission House and the Missions Office will be hosting a mission forum on Friday, May 20, 7-9pm. Location: 958 16th Ave E, Seattle. Presenter: Rev. Joshua Liljenstolpe, a Lutheran minister active in Pax Christi, who will speak on the challenge of peace in the Holy Land. To receive announcements of our co-sponsored Mission Forums, please sign up for email newsletters at <http://www.maryknoll.us>.



Engaging Spirituality

Do you yearn for a deeper, broader spirituality? Are you willing to walk toward that goal?

If so, we invite you to consider being a facilitator or a participant in Engaging Spirituality.

Engaging Spirituality, a JustFaith Ministries program, offers a transformative process that invites adult Christians to explore the intersection between contemplative presence and social action. The process draws on the wisdom and practices of our Christian Contemplative Tradition for the transformation of our lives and our world. These include: discernment, Lectio Divina, silence, journal-keeping, sacred listening, spiritual reading, Centering Prayer, and social outreach; and are opened and practiced from within a small faith sharing group, over a 21 week process.

Discernment/training days:

Saturday, **May 21**, 8:30am-3pm, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Vancouver, WA.

Saturday, **June 4**, 9am-3pm, at St James Pastoral Center, Seattle, WA.

For more information, or to register as a potential facilitator, contact Bill Brennan at wpb53@comcast.net or go to the JustFaith Ministries web site: http://justfaith.org/programs/engaging_trainings.html.



Social Action Summer Institute

For Catholic social justice leaders who want to learn more about Catholic social teaching, apply it to the "signs of the times" and learn skills to be more effective in the public arena, all within the context of prayer, liturgy, and a Catholic spirituality of social justice. July 10-13, 2011 in New Orleans. Information: www.catholicroundtable.org.



"Youth on Mission" art contest

Maryknoll's Seattle house has partnered with the Catholic Schools Department and the Missions Office of the Archdiocese of Seattle to introduce our first annual "Youth on Mission" contest. We invite students and class groups to submit videos, photographs, or other artistic entries that answer the question: "How am I a missionary?"

The deadline for this contest is July 1st, 2011. The winners will be announced at Teacher Excellence Day, September 16th, 2011. Students may enter individually or as a class. Teachers and other adults may help assemble entries, but all entries should demonstrate how students answer the question for themselves. Guidelines and entry forms for the contest can be found at www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions and by contacting Maryknoll's Kevin Foy at seattle@maryknoll.org; (206) 322-8831.



Mission-themed Vacation Bible School

Materials are FREE from the Columban Fathers' Mission Education Office. You simply pay return postage. Through this summer Bible school experience, children will journey to other lands and discover their baptismal call to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, meet world neighbors, discover the beauty of other cultures and hear the stories of missionaries, saints and heroes. This program is designed for vacation Bible school students K-6. Come Journey with Jesus, presented in a five-day format (3½ hours a day), features learning centers, posters, maps, videos, games and activities, catechist in-service materials, prayer resources and a program director's manual.

Visit: <http://columban.org/missioneducation>. Look under "Educational Programs."

Email: missioneducation@columban.org.



Free resource for classrooms and religious education programs

Maryknoll magazine will continue to offer its popular classroom program FREE of charge for the 2011-2012 academic year. Supplement your teaching and catechesis - from September through May - with a copy of Maryknoll magazine for each student plus a poster and study guide for the teacher/catechist. To view a sample, learn more, or order, please visit www.maryknoll.org/classroom or contact: classroomorders@maryknoll.org; 1-888-627-9566.

GOOD NEWS is published monthly, December through Summer, by the Missions Office of the Archdiocese of Seattle.

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

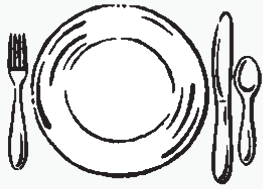
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Food Fast hunger retreat



A couple of quotes from teen participants in this archdiocese, this past Lent:

"I extremely enjoyed this retreat, and would love to attend it next year. It gave me a new perspective, and just a taste of what a homeless person endures. After 24 hours, I had a headache and zero energy; all I could think about was "what if this was EVERY day"? It made me realize that people suffer from this on a daily basis and I have the power to help cease this injustice."

"During prayer sessions we reflected on life. Our hunger wasn't a match to theirs. As our minds were clear from distraction of food, we were able to think of life and what we take for granted. We all bonded through prayer, sharing thoughts and accepting all. As we prayed and heard of their needs, we opened our hearts for the prayer of those who are poor. We made bonds with others. We shared moments and made memories. We connected through song and prayer. Never before has a 24 hour trip brought so many people so close together."

Our **thanks** to all those who participated in the Catholic Relief Services **Food Fast** program for youth in grades 8-12 this past year. (We think more youth were involved than ever before!) Food Fast is CRS' 24-hour hunger awareness retreat for Catholic youth. Focusing on global poverty and hunger, Food Fast offers a journey of solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas, as a way of living out our Catholic faith. If your parish or school has not used the (free) materials before, but might want to in 2011-2012, please contact us in the Missions Office, and/or visit www.foodfast.org (where you can view/download current materials). Ordering info for next year's materials should be online in late August.

Resources for Youth and Young Adults



The U.S. bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development offers the following resources and activities as ways to incorporate justice education, including Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching, with your existing curriculum.

Please visit www.usccb.org/cchd/youth.shtml. The Missions Office (your local CCHD connection) can assist with many of these resources.

- **Our Catholic Faith in Action Campus Web Site** (College and high school)
- **Catholic Social Teaching Scripture Guide** (College and young adult)
- **Ending Poverty in Community (EPIC)** – an interactive, interdisciplinary curriculum for youth ministry programs and high school classrooms. (High school)
- **Poverty in America Student Action Project** – K-8 lesson plans and activities
- **The Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest** has a **Contest Packet** that includes lessons and activities for exploring the Causes of Poverty, CCHD, Catholic Social Teaching, and the Two Feet of Social Action. (Grades 7-12)
- **Models of Catholic Social Teaching – Jesus the Good Shepherd**: Model of the Preferential Option for and with the Poor and Vulnerable.
- **Young Advocate Directory** Web resources are meant for those who want to spread the news about "the best kept secret of the Catholic Church": Catholic social teaching. (Elementary through young adult)
- **The Justice and Peace on Campus brochure** offers ideas on how to share the Gospel of Justice on Campus. (Middle school through young adult)
- **Resources on Domestic and International Issues**: for catechists, teachers, and young Catholics.

Easter Mission Prayer

(for grades K-8)

Lord, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the Missions who are recently baptized. We ask that You help Your newest disciples spread the "Good News" of Your Son, Jesus, just as we all have been called to do. Let them all feel the happiness that we do, Lord, when, strengthened by our faith in You, we share Your love, hope, peace and strength with the children in the Missions. We pray that we continue to make a faith-filled difference in the lives of children all over the world, and that more young people will come to know about You, Lord. Amen.

Source: Holy Childhood Association. Its new website: www.hcakids.org.

10,000 people given Caritas aid after Japan's earthquake

[Note: *Caritas* is the general name of the Catholic Church's charity and justice agencies throughout the world. In the U.S., our international partner is *Catholic Relief Services*. Your response to the earthquake and tsunami has been very generous, and 30% of the annual CRS collection of April 2/3, as announced by Archbishop Sartain, has been designated for this effort.]

From Caritas Japan staff, May 2, 2011:

Caritas Japan staff members and volunteers have been providing food and other aid to 10,000 survivors following the 11 March earthquake and tsunami. The earthquake was largest to have hit Japan on record and the tsunami caused destruction as far as 10 km inland. The quake caused a serious accident and a 20 km evacuation zone at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. The overall cost could exceed \$300 billion, making it the most expensive natural disaster ever.

In some areas, the transitional shelters had been ready and some families have already moved in, but many of the affected are still living in evacuation facilities. They are provided enough food, but are suffering from big stress under this abnormal lifestyle.

The food from Caritas includes ready-to-eat meals, noodles and vegetables, while the other relief items include hygiene kits, clothing and school kits in both the tsunami and the nuclear affected areas. Caritas Japan

has been receiving volunteers from all over Japan, who help clean up rubbles in tsunami-affected areas. We have received over 600 volunteers in 4 volunteer bases (Sendai, Shioyama, Ishinomaki and Kamaishi in Miyagi and Iwate prefectures) so far. At one shelter (the evacuation facility is a gymnasium of a public secondary school), our volunteers are conducting a 'hot water service project', which makes it possible for those evacuated to drink hot coffee and tea, make hot instant soup and noodles and also clean themselves up. Some surrounding parishes in Niigata and Saitama dioceses provide shelter and food to the evacuees, and also serve hot meals to the affected people.

Our ideas now are to start providing trauma care services at evacuation facilities and transitional shelters, and to help restore small communities, like fishing communities in the coastal areas. Easter and our Christ's Resurrection meant much to us all this year as we joined together and prayed in solidarity for recovery.

Be One in a Million – Join Up to Confront Global Poverty

www.crs.org/globalpoverty

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) call on one million Catholics in the United States to confront global poverty. Advocate to end hunger, disease, conflict, and other issues that affect the lives of our brothers and sisters worldwide. Sign up to receive email and/or text alerts.

This can be an excellent way for parishioners and students to add justice action to our charitable works!



"If we love others with charity, then first of all we are just towards them... justice is inseparable from charity, and intrinsic to it. Justice is the primary way of charity."

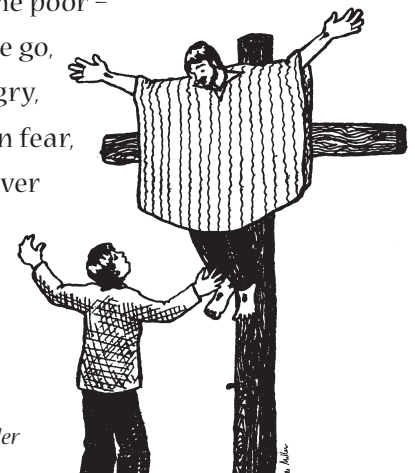
"This is the institutional path ... the political path of charity, no less excellent and effective than the kind of charity which encounters the neighbor directly."

— From *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth), Pope Benedict XVI. Artwork: Julie Lonneman.

Benediction

Ref: Luke 7: 22

Go in peace,
and may the spirit of God
drench all of us,
so that the blind will receive sight
the lame will walk
lepers be cleansed
the deaf will hear
the dead will be raised to new life
and the good news will
be proclaimed to the poor –
and, everywhere we go,
no one will go hungry,
no one will cower in fear,
And no one will shiver
with cold.
Amen.



Text: Katie Cook,
Seeds of Hope. Art: Lee Miller

"What does the Lord require of you but to act justly, and love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God."

(Micah 6:8)

JustFAITH

An increasing number of parishes in this archdiocese use formation programs from JustFaith Ministries (national partners include Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Maryknoll, Pax Christi, and Catholic Charities USA). The Missions Office assists participating and inquiring parishes. The main program is simply called *JustFaith*, usually beginning in September and ending in May. So, what is JustFaith?

JustFaith is a conversion-based process that seeks to provide a context in which participants can grow in their commitment to care for the vulnerable and to become advocates for justice. A thirty week process that empowers participants to develop a passion and thirst for justice, JustFaith prepares them for the work of social ministry, employing books, videos, guest speakers, discussion, prayer, retreats and hands-on experiences. Participants are also afforded the privilege of becoming community with other participants and sharing a journey of faith and compassion that is both life-giving and challenging.

At the JustFaith website, www.justfaith.org, one can get answers to questions such as:

Do participants need to have previous social justice experience or knowledge?

What have other participants said about the JustFaith program?

How do I register my group for the JustFaith program?

What are the program costs?

What is the cost of the books used in JustFaith?

What are the costs for the videos used in JustFaith?

Who is qualified to be a facilitator?

Is there help available for facilitators during start-up and throughout the year?

How large should the group be?

How often should the group meet?

JustFaith Ministries currently offers five programs:

JustFaith (Catholic or Ecumenical versions) – Described above briefly, this "flagship" program is used in over seven hundred Catholic parishes involving over 20,000 people. In the Archdiocese of Seattle over 600 parishioners in 20+ parishes have participated so far.

JusticeWalking – a 12-session program crafted for older high school students and another 7-session version for college students, this process engages participants in a spiritual journey and exploration of the radical call of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

JustMatters – Patterned after the JustFaith process, these shorter 6-8 session programs focus on a very specific topic (e.g. climate change, prison reform, nonviolence, immigration, the economy, etc.) and allow participants to give increased attention to **one issue**, culminating in a call to engaged action.

Engaging Spirituality – This 21-session prayerful process invites small groups to live deeply and love broadly as they explore the interconnection between contemplative living and Gospel mission.

These programs are tools that have proven over and over again to be effective strategies for training and forming individuals to be agents of social transformation. They are exciting opportunities for parishes and faith communities interested in expanding and promoting social ministry.

If parish staff or leadership are interested in any of the above programs, please contact JustFaith Ministries (www.justfaith.org) or the Missions Office (see bottom of page 2 of this newsletter). We in the Missions Office can put you in touch with participating parishes to learn of their experiences; we can also talk with you if costs are an issue for your parish or group.

"Catholic social teaching is built on a commitment to the poor. This commitment arises from our experiences of Christ in the Eucharist... We are called to reach out and build relationships of love and justice... Our commitment to the Catholic social mission must be rooted in and strengthened by our spiritual lives. In our relationship with God we experience the conversion of heart that is necessary to truly love one another as God has loved us."

(U.S. Catholic bishops, *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*.)

Faith and the Economy

In his first encyclical, God is Love, Pope Benedict XVI stated that “within the community of believers there can never be room for a poverty that denies anyone what is needed for a dignified life.”

This year marks the 25th anniversary of a landmark statement on economic matters by the U.S. bishops: Economic Justice for All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy. Below are some quotes from the letter, as well as an editorial response drawn during the extensive consultation and revision process. The full text, a “Ten Years After” statement, parish and school resources and more, can be found at www.usccb.org/jphd/economiclife.

“Every perspective on economic life that is human, moral, and Christian must be shaped by three questions:

What does the economy do for people?

What does it do to people?

And how do people participate in it?”

“As followers of Christ, we are challenged to make a fundamental ‘option for the poor’ – to speak for the voiceless, to defend the defenseless, to assess life styles, policies, and social institutions in terms of their impact on the poor.... As Christians, we are called to respond to the needs of all our brothers and sisters, but those with the greatest needs require the greatest response.”

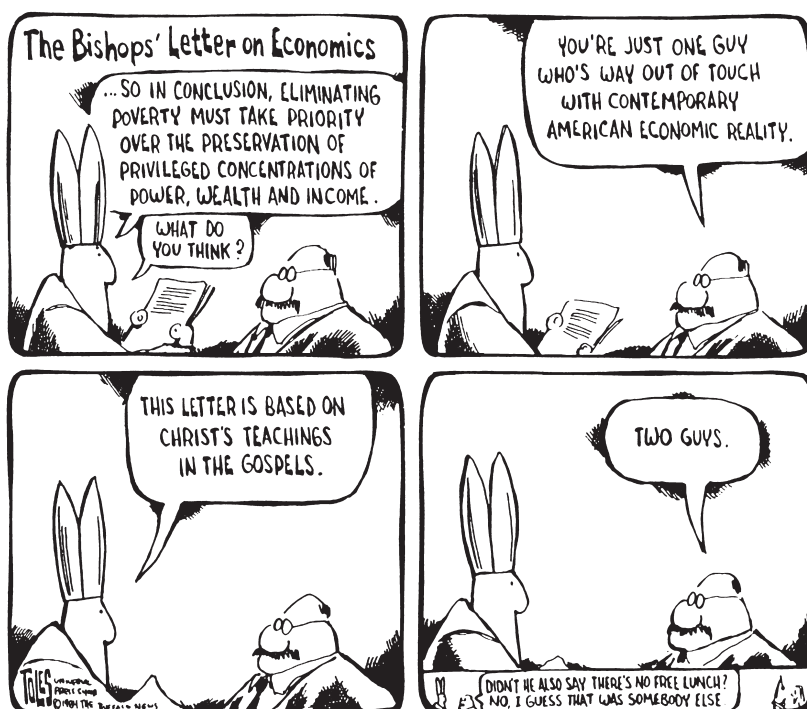
“Since the Christian vocation is a call to transform oneself and society with God’s help, the educational efforts of the Church must encompass the twin purposes of personal sanctification and social reform in the light of Christian values.”

“Society as a whole, acting through public and private institutions, has the moral responsibility

to enhance human dignity and protect human rights....In a democracy, government is a means by which we can act together to protect what is important to us and to promote our common values.”

“The obligation to provide justice for all means that the poor have the single most urgent economic claim on the conscience of the nation. Poverty can take many forms, spiritual as well as material.”

“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.”



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