

# Good News from the MISSIONS OFFICE

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

710 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

November 2011

## *A Litany of* Thanksgiving

In Your presence, O God, we make our sacrament of Thanksgiving.

We begin with the simple things of our days:

Fresh air to breathe,

Cool water to drink,

The taste of food,

The protection of houses and clothes,

The comforts of home.

For all these we make an act of Thanksgiving this day.

We bring to mind all the warmth of humankind that we have known:

Our mothers' arms,

The strength of our fathers,

The playmates of our childhood,

The wonderful stories brought to us from the lives of many who

Talked of days gone by when fairies and giants and diverse kinds

Of magic held sway;

The tears we have shed, the tears we have seen;

The excitement of laughter and the twinkle in the eye with

Its reminder that life is good.

For all these we make an act of Thanksgiving this day.

I linger over the meaning of my own life and the commitment

To which I give the loyalty of my heart and mind:

The little purposes in which I have shared my loves,

My desires, my gifts;

The restlessness which bottoms all I do with its stark insistence

That I have never done my best, I have never dared

To reach for the highest.

The big hope that never quite deserts me, that I and my kind

Will study war no more, that love and tenderness and all the

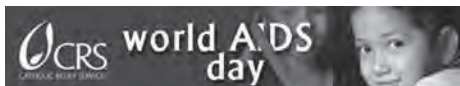
Inner graces of Almighty affection will cover the life of the

Children of God as the waters cover the sea.

For all these and more than mind can think and heart can feel,

We make an act of Thanksgiving this day.

*Source: Howard Thurman (the above is an adaptation)*

**December 1 - World AIDS Day**

**Prayer Service** and other resources from Catholic Relief Services  
<http://worldaidsday.crs.org>

Along with the Prayer Service, other resources include:

- Short videos featuring CRS work on our behalf
- A Ribbon Tree Activity, Raising Awareness of Global HIV
- Candlelight Vigil of Hope
- Ring the Bell: AIDS Awareness Activity
- Advocate for the Poor Overseas

**The New Evangelization and the Human Person**

Presenter: Fr. Brian Bransfield (USCCB)

Thursday, February 16, 2012; 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

At Archbishop Brunett Retreat and Faith Formation Center at the Palisades

Info and to register: [www.seattlearchdiocese.org/cff](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/cff).

**Fast to End Famine! For grades 8-12**

East Africa is facing its worst drought in 60 years and millions of people are facing severe hunger. Catholic Relief Services is calling on youth groups to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in East Africa. Participating youth will

receive a fair trade stone pendant made by artisans in Kenya.

Learn more and get free resources at [www.foodfast.org](http://www.foodfast.org).

**African Connections/ Sister Parish Conference**

**April 21, 2012, Saturday.** Save the date!

At: St. Bridget Church, Seattle.

**JustFAITH JustFaith Graduates**

**Spring 2012 gathering: May 19.** Save the date!

Details will be emailed to all graduates in the Archdiocese of Seattle. Our thanks to all who participated in the excellent Fall event on October 29!

**International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women**

**November 25, 2011**

[www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday](http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday)

Also, Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center's resource for junior/middle school on human trafficking:  
<http://www.ipjc.org/links/traffickingwebinar.pdf>.

**Justice Cafe: Young Adults + Community + Spirituality + Justice**

In September, young adults gathered across the U.S. and Africa for the first **Justice Cafe** of the program year on Reconciliation and Forgiveness. Other topics this year include Food Justice, Technology, Poverty, Rights of Workers, Education Access and Common Good/Common Ground.

[www.ipjc.org](http://www.ipjc.org).

Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (Seattle) provides a monthly host kit with all the materials needed for a successful Justice Cafe. Contact them at [ipjc@ipjc.org](mailto:ipjc@ipjc.org) to learn more about bringing Justice Cafes to young adults in your parish, campus or local community.

Christmas Artwork eGreetings

**Holy Childhood Association Christmas artwork contest**

Your students could see their artwork appear as Christmas e-greetings on HCA's website for kids —

[www.hcakids.org](http://www.hcakids.org) — and displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during Advent and Christmas 2012. The contest is open to all Catholic school students and parish program and home school students currently enrolled in grades K-8. All entries must be postmarked and / or received by HCA no later than January 31, 2012. Info and form are available through Missions Office, below, and at the "Adults" page at [www.hcakids.org](http://www.hcakids.org).

**Social Ministry Gathering in D.C. Washington, D.C., February 12 - 15, 2012**

Sponsored by Justice, Peace and Human

Development department of the U.S. bishops' conference, and by many other organizations. Theme: Faithful Citizenship: Promoting Human Life, Dignity, and the Common Good. Info and registration available by late November at [www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development](http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development).

**Catholic Advocacy Day 2012**

**February 15, 2012, Wednesday**

Olympia (begin at St. Michael church, then to Capitol)

All 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. More details to come.

**Operation Rice Bowl training**

**Online! January 25th from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Are you new to Rice Bowl? A Rice Bowl 'veteran' with great ideas to share? Somewhere in between? We'd love to connect with you! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 25th, and join Missions staff, CRS staff, and others in an online classroom environment to learn more about the program for Lent 2012. Questions? Contact Missions Office (below).

**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](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions)**

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# The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

## November 20, 2011

### Readings:

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Matthew 25:31-46 (*This reflection could be used any time when this Gospel passage is shared.*)

### Quotes:

"The guaranteeing of basic justice for all is not an optional expression of largesse but an inescapable duty for the whole of society."

— U.S. Bishops, *Economic Justice for All*, #120

"Poor and vulnerable people have a special place in Catholic social teaching. A basic moral test of a society is how its most vulnerable members are faring. This is not a new insight; it is the lesson of the parable of the Last Judgment (see Matthew 25). Our tradition calls us to put the needs of the poor and the vulnerable first. As Christians, we are called to respond to the needs of all our sisters and brothers, but those with the greatest needs require the greatest response."

— U.S. Bishops, *A Century of Social Teaching*, 6-7

"The salvation brought by Christ is continually being offered to us, that it may bear abundant fruits of goodness in keeping with the plan of God who wishes to save all his children, especially those who have gone away from him and are looking for the way back. The Good Shepherd is always going in search of the lost sheep, and when he finds them he puts them on his shoulders and brings them back to the flock. Christ is in search of every human being, whatever the situation!"

— Blessed John Paul II, *Jubilee Message for those in Prisons*, 9 July 2000

"Today in our situation the authenticity of the people of God goes by way of poverty and justice: they are the touchstone of the truth of the faith that is professed and of the genuineness of life as it is lived out: poverty, which involves incarnating all our efforts and incarnating ourselves in the reality of the oppressed majorities, and that will necessarily entail a voluntary impoverishment

and abnegation on the part of those who wield power; justice, which involves giving to the people what belongs to the people and struggling to uproot injustice and exploitation, and to establish a new earth, wherein the life of the new human may be possible."

— Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J., martyred in El Salvador in November, 1989.

### Thoughts for Your Consideration:

The connection between [this] gospel and Catholic Social Teaching seems very obvious and on one level there is nothing to add. The gospel story reminds us that

ultimately, we will be judged by how well we live out the social teaching of Jesus Christ. We will be judged by whether we have responded to the call to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, welcome the stranger, serve those who are ill, and visit those who are in prison. Social concerns are an essential part of the Christian life.

As direct as we might find the story's message, there is a danger in reading the story in too limited a way. We might be tempted to limit the story to direct service to those in need. We must not forget that we are called to work for social change in the structures of our world and for empowerment of those in need.

We are called to ask why people are hungry or thirsty or homeless or refugees or without medical care or in prison. We are called to look at

- the structures that keep people from earning the food they need
- the policies that keep people in the developing world from a healthy water supply
- the economic forces that have some people living in substandard homes
- the government rules that make life hard for refugees and immigrants
- the failure of some to see basic medical care as a human right for all
- the challenge of helping those who are losing their jobs in the recession
- the injustices in our criminal justice system.





There is also a danger using this story in too simplistic a way. Most people will recognize themselves as being both sheep and goats. Most people have at some time answered the call to respond to those in need. Most people at some time have also failed to respond to the call to respond to those in need. All of us are called to be aware humbly of both realities in our personal life and in the life of culture and our nation. Otherwise, we might fall into the trap of condemnation and ideology. We might then judge the world in unfair categories of us and them — good people and bad people. If we do this, we run the risk of simplifying the gospel message and preventing it from having its full power. We would also forget that judgment ultimately belongs to God. Our awareness of the injustices of our world will empower us to grow and change and be filled with life in solidarity with God and others, “so that God may be all in all.”

One way to understand the “kingship of Jesus Christ” is to look at the images that are offered us in the scriptures. When the Christ is born it is to a homeless family. When he travels around as a teacher, he seems to have no permanent home or dwelling and virtually no possessions. He gathers with the poor, the sick, the tax collectors and even prostitutes. When Jesus enters Jerusalem it is on a donkey (not on a mighty horse or chariot). In the gospel, the kingly Jesus is a prisoner of Pilate and will be put to death.

#### Questions for Reflection:

- When have you found yourself to be a “sheep?”
- When have you found yourself to be a “goat?”
- How has the recession affected you and the people you know?
- What does the gospel tell us to do?

#### Actions – suggested links:

<http://crs.org/globalpoverty>

[www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching)

[www.educationforjustice.org](http://www.educationforjustice.org)

(the source for this reflection)

[www.ccsww.org](http://www.ccsww.org) and [www.svdpsseattle.org](http://www.svdpsseattle.org)

[www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org)

[www.misna.org/en](http://www.misna.org/en)

(a missionary daily news service “from the South”)

#### Prayers of Intercession:

*Response: Lord, help us to see you in our brothers and sisters.*

For those who are sick or in prison, we pray....

For those who are hungry or thirsty, we pray....

For those who are homeless, we pray....

For those who have lost jobs, we pray....

For those who are living from paycheck to paycheck,  
we pray....

For those who live in worry and fear about what they have  
and don't have, we pray....

For all those living in relationships marked by violence,  
we pray....

For all of us that we may keep our values in order and  
discover how to be grateful, we pray....

#### Prayer – Meditation: Our God hears the cry of the poor.

[Ps. 34/ hymn by John Foley, S.J.]

Our God hears the cry of the poor.

Blessed be our God.

I will bless Yahweh at all times,

God's praise ever in my mouth.

Let my soul glory in the Lord,

For God hears the cry of the poor.

Let the lowly hear and be glad:

Yahweh listens to their pleas;

And to hearts broken God is near,

For God hears the cry of the poor.

Every spirit crushed God will save;

Will be ransom for their lives;

Will be safe shelter for their fears,

For God hears the cry of the poor.

We proclaim the greatness of God,

God's praise ever in my mouth;

Every face brightened in God light,

For God hears the cry of the poor.

Our God hears the cry of the poor.

Blessed be our God.

# Thanksgiving Prayer Service

We come before God with grateful hearts to express our gratitude for all the blessings and gifts we have been given.

## Opening Prayer

We praise God for the abundant gifts he has bestowed upon us. We celebrate this abundance, and we call all to the table to eat and to be renewed. In brotherhood and sisterhood may we enjoy God's gifts and share them in joy.

May we be grateful each morning for the gift of a new day, and grateful each evening for the good we have received during the day, and for the good we have been able to do.

May we praise God through our giving thanks for his abundant love. May we praise God for offering such love to one another.

## Readings from Scripture:

*Psalms 67*

May God be gracious to us and bless us; may God's face shine upon us.

So shall your rule be known upon the earth, your saving power among all the nations. May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you!

May the nations be glad and shout for joy; for you govern the peoples justly, you guide the nations upon the earth.

May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.

May God bless us still; may the ends of the earth revere our God.

*Matthew 14*

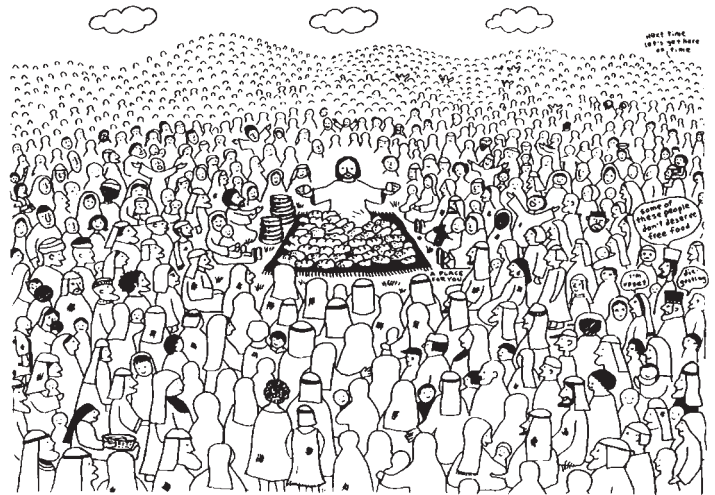
When Jesus heard of it, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself.

The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

(Jesus) said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves."

But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over — twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.



## Reflection

How has God shared the gift of abundance with you, your family and your community?

What are you thankful for at this time of celebrating and giving thanks?

## Litany of Thanks

For the blessing of life, for the gift of each new day,

Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the food we eat each day,

Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the home we share with family,

Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the faith that renews us,

Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the hope that we have for the human family,

Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the charity that we are privileged to offer,

Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the work for justice that we are called to do,

Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For all the graces we have received,

Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For all the good we have enjoyed,

Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

## Prayers of Petition and Gratitude:

For what else shall we be thankful?

## Closing Prayer

God, Creator, we celebrate your overflowing love, and we give thanks to you for all that we have, all that we are. We know abundance because of you. May we offer thanks to you by sharing what you have blessed us with, our talents, our graces, our spiritual as well as material goods. May we live in your light and in your love during this season, and during all the seasons of life. Amen.



## National Migration Week 2012

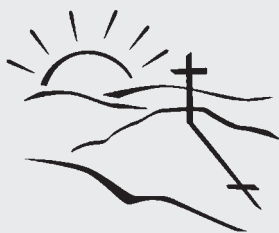
### Resources for school, parish and home



Just as on the road to Emmaus, Christ's disciples met him in the guise of a stranger; this year's theme helps remind us that Christ makes himself present to each of us in the lonesome traveler, the newcomer, and the migrant. We are called to open our hearts and provide hospitality to those in need. It is our duty to create a space of welcome and acceptance to the migrant who finds himself or herself far away from home and in a vulnerable situation.

The staff at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will be providing a number of resources that reflect on this theme. Please check regularly online to see what new resources are available for your use. Some of these items will be available for download only while others will be available in bulk for a nominal price through the USCCB publishing office.

<http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/index.cfm>.



**"What is it to be a companion of Jesus today? It is to engage, under the standard of the cross, in the crucial struggle of our time: the struggle for faith and that struggle for justice which it includes."**

— Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J. On November 16, 1989, six Jesuit priests, their co-worker and her teenage daughter were martyred in El Salvador.



## 'Tis the season for a fair trade sale

November is not too late for you to plan a holiday Work of Human Hands craft sale as an alternative to excessive consumerism during Advent and Christmas. A brand new catalog and "how to" kit is available to help you select beautiful, easy to sell crafts. There is also tasty chocolate and coffee. Help parishioners purchase ethical Christmas gifts and support artisans around the world struggling to live in dignity. Work of Human Hands sales are fun community events that build solidarity! You can order your free information packet at [www.crsfairtrade.org/crafts/sell-handcrafts](http://www.crsfairtrade.org/crafts/sell-handcrafts). We in the Missions Office can connect you to those who have done a sale and can offer pointers and best practices. And for those in the greater Seattle area, Catholic Relief Services has a volunteer "fair trade ambassador" who would gladly meet with you to go over the "why, what and how" of fair trading.

Our **"thanks!"** to communities who participated in Work of Human Hands in 2010:

Holy Disciples Parish, Puyallup  
 Holy Family Parish, Kirkland  
 Holy Redeemer Parish, Vancouver  
 Mary Queen of Peace Parish, Sammamish  
 Missions Office (Chancery)  
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Seattle  
 Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Vancouver  
 Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Snoqualmie  
 Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Bremerton  
 Queen of Angels Parish, Port Angeles  
 Sacred Heart Parish, Enumclaw  
 St. Benedict Parish, Seattle  
 St. Bridget Parish, Seattle  
 St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Seattle  
 St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Tacoma  
 St. James Cathedral Bookstore, Seattle  
 St. John Bosco Parish, Lakewood  
 St. Joseph Parish, Issaquah  
 St. Joseph Parish, Seattle  
 St. Jude Parish, Redmond  
 St. Leo Parish, Tacoma  
 St. Luke Parish, Shoreline  
 St. Madeleine Sophie Parish, Bellevue  
 St. Michael Parish, Olympia  
 St. Olaf Parish, Poulsbo  
 St. Peter Parish, Seattle  
 St. Thomas More Parish, Lynnwood

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