

Good News from the MISSIONS OFFICE

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

710 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

January 2012



In This New Year

In this New Year,

We look to an end to violence and war.

We pray for peace, understanding and reconciliation.

In this New Year,

We hope for a future where all can have enough.

We pray for prophetic voices to speak for the poor and the marginalized.

In this New Year,

We will feel the pain of those dying from preventable diseases.

We pray that antiretrovirals and other medicines can be available to all.

In this New Year,

We will breathe air and feel alive.

We pray to improve our stewardship of God's creation.

In this New Year,

We wish to start anew.

We pray for wisdom to acknowledge mistakes and move on.

In this New Year,

We believe that with God's help, it is possible.

We pray for justice to reign and dignity for all people.

January is **poverty** in America Awareness Month

Check out the educational resources (English and Spanish) at www.povertyusa.org. Sponsored by the U.S. Bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development. To be updated in January. Consider adding the link to your parish or school web site.



African Connections/ Sister Parish Conference

April 21, 2012 – Saturday. Save the date!

At: St. Bridget Church, Seattle. Open

to communities with twinning or sister parish/school connections anywhere in the world.

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 (Prison Ministry/Prison Reform).



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? Or someone else wanting to get updated about this global solidarity program? We'd love to connect with you! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 25, 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). Note: if you regularly receive emails from us as your community's "Rice Bowl contact", you will receive a specific invitation.



World Day of Peace, January 1

"Educating Young People in Justice and Peace."

"The message from Pope Benedict XVI focuses on the need to listen to and enhance the important role of new generations in the realization of the common good, and in the affirmation of a just and peaceful social order where fundamental human rights can be fully expressed and realized."

A link to this year's message and resources including a two-page handout, "Educating Young People in Justice and Peace":

www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development.



2012 Youth on Mission Contest: *Mission Possible*

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and the Archdiocese of Seattle are sponsoring the 2nd annual Youth on Mission Contest. The 2012 contest, *Mission: Possible*, has the theme, "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours" (based on the prayer by St. Teresa of Avila).

The contest deadline is **Pentecost Sunday, May 27, 2012**. Children and youth are invited to submit videos, photo journals, or other artistic entries that speak to the theme.

Additional information can be found at the Archdiocese of Seattle Catholic Schools [website](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions) or at www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions.



National Migration Week 2012

Welcoming Christ in the Migrant.

This annual week is a teaching opportunity for classrooms and groups. January 8-14 in 2012 but materials are useful throughout the year. English and Spanish resources provided at www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week.



Human Trafficking Awareness Day

January 11, 2012

Prayer service for Human Trafficking Awareness Day and annotated resources for education and advocacy (English/ Español): www.ipjc.org.

Other resources: (U.S. bishops' conference) www.usccb.org/about/human-trafficking, and (Catholic Relief Services) www.crs.org/slavery-human-trafficking.



Just Video Contest 2012

Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center is holding its 3rd Annual High School Just Video Contest, for Juniors and Seniors

(individual or groups). www.ipjc.org

Students participating in the Just Video Contest are asked to:

- Produce a video on one of the following:
immigration, human rights or environment
- Incorporate Catholic Social Teaching, Social Justice, or Catholic/Christian tradition
- Create a 3-5 minute video that shares what you have learned and inspires others to act for justice!
- All entries must be uploaded by **March 30, 2012**.

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:

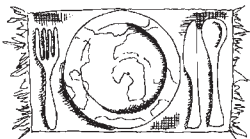
www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions

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World Awareness Quiz

Catholic Relief Services/Operation Rice Bowl

(Adapted slightly by your Missions Office – see #9)

- _____ people worldwide are undernourished, which means they are not receiving the minimum amount of food essential for good health.
a. 925 million b. 1.1 billion c. 876 million
- 11.5% of children in the world are not enrolled in school. Of these children, _____ are girls.
a. 27% b. 42% c. 53%
- 40% of the world's population, or more than 2.6 billion people, lack access to this basic need.
a. Sanitation facilities b. Clean water c. Shelter
- 48% of the world's population lives on less than _____ per day.
a. \$1 b. \$2 c. \$5
- An estimated _____ children (under age 18) have lost one or both parents to AIDS in 2009.
a. 10.1 million b. 4.7 million c. 16.6 million
- Nearly _____ of the world's population is engaged in agriculture.
a. 20% b. 47% c. 13%
- Catholic Relief Services supports small, village-based credit and savings institutions which create economic opportunities for people living in some of the world's most impoverished areas. This is called _____.
a. Economic growth b. Microfinance c. Employment programming
- You can help alleviate hunger in the world by _____.
a. Praying for those who are hungry.
b. Supporting the work of Catholic Relief Services.
c. Both
- In 2011 _____ Rice Bowl grants were made to food banks and other hunger fighting organizations in western Washington.
a. 194 b. 154 c. 174

"The Eucharist should be the place of solidarity, where, through our sharing, the miracle of the loaves and fishes continues in the world today." — Blessed John Paul II

- (a) **925 million people** worldwide are undernourished, which means they are not receiving the minimum amount of food essential for good health. (United Nations)
- (c) 11.5% of children in the world, 10.1 million, are not enrolled in school. Of these children, 53% are girls. (United Nations)
- (a) Worldwide, 40% of the population, or more than 2.6 billion people, lack one of life's most basic needs: an adequate **sanitation facility** — defined as one that hygienically prevents human contact with sewage. 13% of the world's population does not have access to clean water. (Bread for the World)
- (b) 48% of the world's population lives on less than **\$2** per day; 25.2% of the world's population lives in extreme poverty, meaning they live on less than \$1.25 per day. (Bread for the World)
- (c) An estimated **16.6 million** children (under age 18) have lost one or both parents to AIDS in 2009 (the most recent year recorded). 14.9 million of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa. (United Nations)
- (a) Nearly **20%** of the world's population is engaged in agriculture, supporting their families through income generated from farming. (Food and Agriculture Organization)
- (b) **CRS' microfinance programs** are committed to serving the very poor, especially women and vulnerable populations in remote rural communities. CRS' programs target the self-employed poor who have little or no access to formal credit or savings services.
- (c) **Both** — Your support of the work of Catholic Relief Services around the world and your prayers for the poor in our world make a difference in the lives of millions of people. Thank you for being part of this life saving work.
- (a) **194** — a **record amount!** Visit the Missions Office website, www.seattlarchdiocese.org/missions, for a full listing of the grants made, and to view the grant application materials. (Also to be listed on our customized Rice Bowl placemat)

World Awareness Quiz Answers

This quiz in its 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.seattlarchdiocese.org/missions.

Mission of the Church in Myanmar

[The World Mission Sunday celebration in October, in the Archdiocese of Seattle, combines a number of national and international collections, primarily supporting the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. SPOF supports over a thousand dioceses, including the ones in Myanmar (formerly called Burma).]

"The Church's mission is to help people realize their potential. We can help provide quality education to society. Our strength is in services, education and health care, which we want to put at the service of the country, for the common good." This is how Archbishop Charles Maung Bo, SDB, of the capital, Yangon, describes the Catholic church's commitment to the future of the country.

"The Catholic Church is a small minority without power. This has not stopped us to continue our mission and to be present in society, in a discreet but effective way," Bo says. "We are the only community, apart from the army, widely present throughout the country. The Church embraces all ethnic groups. In many remote parts we are the only group to reach people in their pastoral needs, education and health care. We are one of the few encouraging examples of how an indigenous Church has survived despite stifling constraints."

The Archbishop recalls some painful steps and the growth of the community: "The missionaries were expelled in 1966. Our best resources were nationalized. Schools and hospitals were stolen and we became poor overnight. Nevertheless evangelization and the care of the people have gone ahead. We have gone from 300,000 Catholics to 750,000. From 150 to 750 priests; there were 400 nuns, now we are 1,600. We have hundreds of catechists." Today, in a nation that is changing, the Church intends to be "a resource for the future of the country."

Source: FIDES

Haiti and Latin America grants

*[We in the Missions Office again offer our thanks for your participation in **World Mission Sunday** in October. WMS in the Archdiocese of Seattle combines a number of national and international collections of the Church, including the one for the "Church in Latin America."]*

The Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has approved the funding for 174 projects, worth over 2.7 million dollars to help the Church's pastoral work in 19 countries of Latin America. Grants for projects of reconstruction of the Church in Haiti were also approved. These include structural repairs to a diocesan school of secondary education in the town of Jacmel and the church Cathedral in Miragoanes, for a total of nearly \$100,000.

The USCCB, with the help of Catholic Relief Services, directly helped the Haitian church immediately after the earthquake, to create the necessary structures to ensure the safety and efficiency of the reconstruction.

The subcommittee also approved funding for a series of pastoral projects, the formation of Church ministers and other special projects.

Information on the USCCB's Church in Latin America and Haiti efforts can be found at www.usccb.org. (For an update on Catholic Relief Services work in Haiti, visit <http://crs.org/countries/haiti>.)

Maryknoll Sisters: 1912-2012

What if your young daughter suffered an injury that could affect the rest of her life? That's what happened to Srey Mom Ngoun, who lives in a low-lying neighborhood of Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital. Earlier this year, Srey Mom was playing and broke her arm. The area is dangerous enough. Each rainy season her home is surrounded by several feet of water, which explains why all the houses here are built on stilts.

Getting medical care in Cambodia isn't easy. In Cambodia, health care for the poor isn't supplied by the government. So when Srey Mom broke her arm, her family turned to a traditional healer. A week passed, but Srey Mom's arm still hurt.

A broken arm can be a serious injury. If a broken limb isn't treated properly, its negative effects can be permanent, especially if you're a child. "We have so many poor people here who don't know how to access medical care," said Sister Mary Little. "Life here is so uncertain because the poor especially feel the effects of a slumping economy and rising food prices."

Like many of their neighbors, Srey Mom's parents raise morning glories that grow in the lake nearby. They're a favorite vegetable in Cambodia. The whole family gets up

100 years of "Making God's Love Visible"

early to pick the morning glories so Srey Mom's mother can sell them. "They live day to day," Sister Mary said. "You survive on what you earn today."

So when disaster strikes, families here need a helping hand. Srey Mom is one of them. Sister Mary discovered that Srey Mom wasn't getting the right treatment for her arm, and she moved into action.

Sister Mary brought Srey Mom to get x-rays and a proper cast for the broken arm. Srey Mom was grateful for something just as important: Sister Mary's reassuring presence throughout. "She was so afraid," Sister Mary said of the girl.

Srey Mom's arm is still not healed. "She has trouble raising her arm and sometimes needs help getting dressed," Sister Mary said.

Meanwhile, Srey Mom is doing exercises to improve the use of her arm. Srey Mom's faith in people's goodwill and kindness has already grown immeasurably.

[To learn more about Maryknoll Sisters and their remarkable work throughout the world, please visit www.maryknollsisters.org.]



A Message and a Missiology

Third Sunday in Ordinary time (B)

January 22, 2012

By Patricia Datchuck Sánchez, in *Celebration*.

Graphic: © 2003 Liturgy Training Publications, art by Julie Lonneman.

Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Inherent to the life and growth of all believers is our awareness of the constant need for repentance. We repent daily and are thereby converted to Christ and the Gospel. Through our willingness to accept repentance and conversion as our graced lifestyle, believers become witnesses who invite others to draw nearer to God as well.

Although the power of his personal witness was questionable, the fictional Jonah (first reading) nevertheless was a medium of grace through which the Ninevites recognized their need for repentance and were saved. Jonah is represented as the epitome of Jewish bigotry and prejudice regarding foreigners. His mission proved successful not because of his own virtue, but by virtue of God's universal mercy. Jonah's story reminds contemporary believers in Jesus that, at times, the truth of the Gospel may be spoken through less-than-worthy preachers. It is the message rather than the medium that reaches out with grace and salvation.

Paul, unlike Jonah, was enthusiastically invested in the spiritual well-being of those whom he called to repent and believe in Jesus. By his word and by the good example of his own continuous turning to God, he inspired many in Corinth (second reading) and elsewhere to appropriate, by faith, God's gift of salvation.

When the Marcan Jesus (Gospel) recruited disciples to join him in his efforts at preaching the message "Repent and believe in the gospel," he also offered them a missiology. With his invitation "Come after me and I will make you fishers of people," he called them to embrace repentance and faith as their way of life and then to extend the same blessing to others by word and example. Of all the images he could have chosen — evangelist, proselytizer, teacher, preacher, social activist, reformer, builder, planter and so on — Jesus chose the image of fishing. Obviously this was a profession familiar to those he called to follow him, but there are many good lessons

that any disciple might learn from someone who fishes for a living.

Regardless of whether she fishes with a net or a pole, with lures or by chumming the waters, the fisher must go to where the fish are and offer them something that will entice them to take the bait. Disciples, too, can be more effective when they are willing to be mobile. Often this requires leaving the comfort of the institution to venture into those public and private places where people live their lives. Disciples have been entrusted with the "bait" of the good news, which becomes more attractive when it is paired with their own good example.

Another lesson disciples might learn from fishers is to work without discriminating as to the worthiness of others. There is no sign at the end of a fishing line that says "Good fish only," nor can disciples have any prejudice as they follow their commission to go out to all the world and tell the good news of salvation.

Unlike in most professions, fishers do not keep regular hours. Fish do not make appointments, so those who gather them must accommodate their "schedules."

Those who fish successfully are also quite persistent. They will bait the hook again and again, cast the line many times and lower the nets for as long as it takes for the fish to come. Along with their persistence, fishers have cultivated the fine art of waiting. Fishers of people are also called to be persistent in their efforts. As they preach the essential message handed on to them by the Marcan Jesus, "Repent and believe the gospel," they will also learn to wait for the seed of that message to take root and grow in others. But even waiting can have significant value if the one who waits does more than twiddle his thumbs or criticize the sinner who is taking so long to change. That kind of negative attitude only lowers expectations. More positive and productive is the one who fills her waiting with prayer and hope and trust that God's grace can eventually bring sinners to repentance and faith.



**Catholic Advocacy Day 2012:
Economic Justice for All**
Wednesday, February 15, 2012,
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Olympia

All parish members and staff, parish leadership, and Catholic service and justice organizations are invited to ensure that the Gospel message to care for our brothers and sisters is heard loud and clear in Olympia.

The day begins at St. Michael's Church (1208 11th Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501) and ends with appointments with your local legislators at the capitol.

Agenda

8:30 a.m. Mass - Archbishop Sartain

9:00 a.m. Registration, St. Michael Church

9:30 p.m. Prayer and Program

- Archbishop Sartain
- Legislative briefings: Economic Justice, Housing and Healthcare
- Organizing Legislative Visits

11:30 a.m. Leave for capitol

12:00 p.m. Legislative Appointments

(Lunch is on your own. A brown bag is suggested.)

To Register: contact the Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center at 206.223.1138 or ipjc@ipjc.org. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail, and if you will be joining on the bus in Seattle, Tacoma, or Bellevue. You will be provided with more details after you send in your registration information. The chartered buses are for **registered** participants (departing from Seattle, Tacoma or Bellevue).

Catholic Advocacy Day sponsors: Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center, Washington State Catholic Conference, Catholic Community Services, Archdiocese of Seattle, Pierce County Deanery, Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

*"Power at its best is love
implementing the demands
of justice.*

*Justice at its best is love
correcting everything that
stands against love."*

— Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr.



**Prayer for
Martin Luther King's Birthday**

[Attributed to J-Glenn Murray, SJ]

O Guardian of Israel,
Our shelter and shade,
Stir up in us that flame of justice
That Jesus incited on this earth,
That rages in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
O arouse in us
That very flame of righteousness
That enticed Martin
To be a living sacrifice of praise,
To seek freedom for all God's children.
O to you, God ever faithful and true,
Be glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

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