

# Good News from the MISSIONS OFFICE

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

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

February 2012

## FORTY DESERT DAYS MARK 1: 12-15

On Ash Wednesday, we start Lent.  
The flowers we used last year  
on Palm Sunday to applaud Jesus  
were burnt to ashes the day before.  
Our resolutions, the ones we made to be with Jesus  
when we were waving those branches last year,  
had been burned to ashes long ago.  
We put those ashes,  
bitter, salt, and coarse as they were,  
on our foreheads  
to show that we had been unsuccessful,  
to show that we hope to do better,  
and we started our period of Lent,  
we started to do penance;  
and now we appeal  
to the forty days of Jesus in the desert  
to explain to ourselves what we do.  
It is right to appeal to that period in the life of Jesus  
on condition that we really know  
what he did there in the desert  
and on condition that we are willing  
to follow his example,  
opening up to what the Spirit  
worked out in Jesus during that period  
of his life.

It seems to me that we often  
very conveniently overlook what happened to him.  
We overlook because like in so many spiritual affairs  
we remain the children we were long ago.  
We are quite willing to do some penance, we say.  
Some of us decide  
to drink less,  
to smoke less,  
to eat less,  
to spend less,  
to give to the poor,  
to visit the sick,  
to pray a bit more,  
and all those resolutions are excellent  
and they all have something to do with what Jesus did,  
but it all remains at a childlike level.  
What Jesus underwent was different.  
Mark is short about it, but he says everything to be said.  
Jesus was sent into the desert  
by the Spirit, by the Spirit of God.  
That must have been a terrific experience.  
Just imagine that you were taken up  
by the Spirit of God!

That Spirit of God chased him into the desert.  
He did not go there, he was driven;  
and once in the desert a fight developed,  
a very fundamental fight, a basic fight,

The way in which Mark indicates and characterizes  
that fight is outdated, it is a bit primitive.  
It does not appeal to us.  
Even the number 4 in 40  
is an indication of what happened.  
Forty days, ten times four, four was the number that  
stood for *the earth* with its four basic elements  
earth,  
air,  
water, and  
fire.

There is the image of *the wild animals*,  
and all those elements and animals  
are described as beings ruled by Satan,  
the enemy, the adversary.  
The fight is won by him.  
That is why, when coming out,  
he can proclaim the Good News from God:  
the time has come, the kingdom is close at hand,  
repent and believe.  
It is at this point that we come in.  
Those words are addressed to us.  
We should not only look at his past in that desert;  
we should look at ourselves in the present  
and join Jesus in his cosmic struggle.  
All this can be said in another way:  
it is in that desert, in that wilderness  
with those animals, with those elements  
– and the angels assisting him –  
that Jesus entered as an active participant  
in the history of humankind,  
humanity on its way to itself and to God.  
We are invited during this Lent  
to enter into that history too, to participate in that fight.  
Amen.

### Reflection Questions (suggested, or.... your own?)

- What struggles do we as a faithful people, with Jesus, live into today?
- Lent is preparation for the resurrection of Christ our Hope – what Good News shall we offer during this time?

## JustFAITH A Call to Transform Our Hearts and the World

An ecumenical evening with Jack Jezreel, founder of JustFaith, the adult formation program that has energized Christians around the nation to a renewed commitment to love and serve the world through active and engaged social ministry efforts. Invite along friends or co-workers from other denominations. [www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org).

Date: Friday, February 17, 2012

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Place: Plymouth Congregational Church, 1217 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, 98101.

For more info or to RSVP, contact the Missions Office (below).



### 2012 Youth on Mission Contest: Mission Possible

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and the Archdiocese of Seattle (Schools and Missions) are sponsoring the 2nd annual Youth on Mission Contest. **Mission: Possible** theme: "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours".

Contest deadline: **Pentecost Sunday, May 27, 2012.**

Children and youth are invited to submit videos, photo journals, or other artistic entries.

Information can be found at the Archdiocesan Schools website or at [www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions).



### Stations of the Cross

*Stations of the Cross with All of Creation* is a booklet from Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center that provides an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' journey and the suffering of people and Earth today. Use during a parish Lenten Stations of the Cross, pray one or more of the stations in RCIA, religious education, school or parish meetings.

Each Station includes:

- Scripture
- A Reflection Question
- Meditation on the Cross in Creation

See sample at [www.ipjc.org/publications/index.htm](http://www.ipjc.org/publications/index.htm) or order at 206.223.1138; [ipjc@ipjc.org](mailto:ipjc@ipjc.org).



### African Connections/Sister Parish Conference

April 21, 2012 – Saturday. Save the date!  
At: St. Bridget church, Seattle.

An annual event with a focus on Africa but this year also open to communities with twinning or sister parish/school connections anywhere in the world.



### Bread for the World speaker

David Beckmann, president of *Bread for the World*, will be a featured speaker at Seattle University, February 28, 2012, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., at Pigott Building Auditorium. No RSVP needed; contact for info: [haukeb@seattleu.edu](mailto:haukeb@seattleu.edu), (206) 296-5732.



### Mission Forums

Mission Forums feature speakers and films that uniquely address the challenges of mission, social justice, and proclaiming the Kingdom today. The Forum is held each month (usually the first Friday, in the evening) at the Maryknoll Mission House in Seattle.

To learn about upcoming Forums, or to get on the email list: [seattle@maryknoll.org](mailto:seattle@maryknoll.org); (206) 322-8831.



### Catholic Advocacy Day: Economic Justice for All

Wednesday, February 15, 2012,  
Begins with Mass at 8:30 a.m.

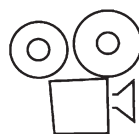
All parish members and staff, parish leadership, and Catholic service and justice organizations have been invited to ensure that the Gospel message to care for our brothers and sisters is heard loud and clear in Olympia.

The day begins at St. Michael's Church in Olympia and ends with visits with local legislators at the capitol. More info at [www.ipjc.org](http://www.ipjc.org).



### Justice Education Forum: Economic Justice Teach-In

March 17, Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Seattle University, Student Center.  
RSVP to [magis-rsvp@seattleu.edu](mailto:magis-rsvp@seattleu.edu).



### Film for Lent? *Of Gods and Men*

Based on a true story, the film offers a dramatic account of nine Trappist monks living in largely Muslim Algeria. At first living peaceably with the local community, they must decide whether to continue their ministry or to flee when the country breaks out in civil war. The film raises important questions about the challenges of mission and solidarity. We highly recommend the film for high school and adult levels, especially during Lent. Available from the archdiocesan Library Media Center: [library@seattlearch.org](mailto:library@seattlearch.org); 800.869.7027.

**GOOD NEWS** is published monthly, September 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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# JustFAITH

## Some leavening news JustFaith report from a parish

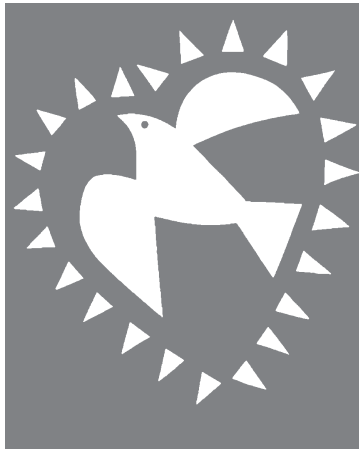
*Send your Spirit upon them, that they may go forth into our world to love and to serve the poor and marginalized whom they have encountered through JustFaith. May they continue to be leaven for the community... reminding us to serve and love You through serving and loving the least among us.*

From A Blessing for JustFaith Graduates.

Our twenty-eight JustFaith grads are now an "intentional community", hoping to be "leaven" in our parish. St. Luke (Shoreline) parishioners have always followed in Jesus' footsteps in responding to the needs of others. Our mission is to expand our awareness of the *Two Feet of Christian Discipleship*—charity and justice.

JustFaith grads are working in the following ministries that provide outreach: Tent City 3; St. Cloud Restaurant; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Center; the L'Arche Community; the Catholic Worker House; Food Life Line; St. Vincent de Paul; Union Gospel Mission Clinic; Vets Move Out Project; and Jacob's Well Housing.

JustFaith people have worked on new parish-wide projects including the formation of our Justice and Outreach Commission in October, 2010. In 2011 we held our third Bread for the World Offering of Letters and our third



Fair Trade Market. In 2011, parishioners advocated for the poor to the State Legislature through a postcard drive and participation in Catholic Advocacy Day. This year, thirteen of us will be going to Olympia. In response to the dreams of St. Luke parishioners and the work of our newly-formed Parish Mission Trip Ministry, our parish will be sending 29 missionaries to El Salvador for 10 days this July. Our Catholic Social Teaching Ministry, working with our pastor and our Faith Formation minister, has made the *Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching* the

focus of our up-coming Advent Parish Mission, which will kick-off parish and school wide educational and service projects. Bishop William Skylstad will lead this Mission. Finally, to keep informed of social justice issues, we have a weekly *Justice and Outreach News* article in the bulletin and a JustFaith Book Club. We thank the Holy Spirit, working through the JustFaith program, for inspiration!

*[For those interested in the JustFaith resources please visit [www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org), or contact the Missions Office for assistance or for referrals to contacts in parishes who have participated. Also see page two for a notice about a February 17 event with JustFaith.]*

## A special Lenten fast



- Give up harsh words: use generous ones.
- Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.
- Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.
- Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.
- Give up worrying: take up trust in God.
- Give up complaining: value what you have.
- Give up stress: take up prayer.
- Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.
- Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.
- Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.
- Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.
- Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

*Anonymous, Latin America*





## Church in Bangladesh

The Catholic Church in Bangladesh needs more prayers and support from the Universal Church to carry out its missionary activities, according to Father Andrew Small, OMI, the new national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States. Fr. Small recently toured the country, visiting parishes, villages and a seminary.

Small praised the local Church saying it is making a significant difference in the lives of the poor and powerless in spite of the limited resources and influence at its disposal. "I was surprised to see the extreme poverty here; it was not known to me," he said.

"The world and the Church need to know this story," he observed, adding: "People have lot of love and respect and joy with the little support they have from us, but they need to have more of our prayers and support." He said the world needs to learn more from the Church in Bangladesh about how it has found a very good way to coexist in a Muslim majority country.

Source: UCA News. Information on the Pontifical Mission Societies: [www.onefamilyinmission.org](http://www.onefamilyinmission.org)



## Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest

Encourage youth in your school or parish to participate in the Multi-Media Youth Contest! The contest (as announced last Fall, the local deadline is March 9, 2012) is sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and can help parishes and schools educate young people about the causes of poverty and our Catholic response.

Through participation in the Contest, students in grades 7 through 12 can explore the issue of U.S. poverty in the light of their faith and learn about what empowered, low-income persons in their communities are doing to address its root causes. This connection with local anti-poverty efforts is vital to creating a meaningful understanding of poverty and generating an effective response. In response to what they have learned, students are then guided to utilize creative skills to use their artwork to educate peers, family, friends and others about poverty.

The contest is designed to be used across disciplines; student "artwork" can be of any form—for example, video, PowerPoint, short story, painting, song, or photography.

Contest age groupings include grades 7-9 and 10-12. The grand prize is \$500, with a \$500 matching grant to a community organization working to fight poverty, plus a trip to a national awards event. Contest rules can be found at [www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/2011-12-multi-media-youth-arts-contest.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/2011-12-multi-media-youth-arts-contest.cfm).



## Bread for the World Offering of Letters

**A New Campaign Style Promotes Creating Circle of Protection**

Bread for the World has launched its 2012 Offering of Letters campaign, urging Congress to create a circle of protection around programs vital to hungry and poor people.

This new, flexible campaign has one overall campaign and four mini-campaigns addressing specific legislation that Congress will decide on in 2012: nutrition, poverty-focused development assistance, tax policy, and food aid. The "ask" for the four mini-campaigns will change throughout the year in response to Congress' legislative agenda. Through visits, phone calls, and personal letters and emails, people of faith successfully kept the needs of vulnerable people before Congress in 2011. Together in 2012, people of faith must urge members of Congress to protect programs that give hungry and poor people in this country and abroad the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty. For more information, and many downloadables, check out the [Offering of Letters website](http://www.bread.org/ol/2012) and learn how groups, parishes and schools can get involved: [www.bread.org/ol/2012](http://www.bread.org/ol/2012). [Also of interest: [www.circleofprotection.us](http://www.circleofprotection.us)]

"Government has an appropriate and important role to play in working for systemic changes to overcome hunger and poverty. Therefore, as citizens we must protect the programs that make a difference in the lives of those who live in poverty and hunger."

— Sheila Gilbert, President, U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in the [Offering of Letters](http://www.bread.org/ol/2012) materials



**“Food for the body is not enough...  
there must be food for the soul.”**

— Dorothy Day, Catholic Worker.

Art by Lee Miller.



## Fasting Youth

Please pray for youth groups who are holding a Catholic Relief Services Food Fast this year (or those participating in a retreat using CRS FoodFast materials). If your parish or school is one of those groups but not on the CRS Food Fast map online, [www.foodfast.org/fasts-around](http://www.foodfast.org/fasts-around), please send an email with your parish or school name, address, and the date of your event, to [foodfast@crs.org](mailto:foodfast@crs.org).

**“No one may claim the name of Christian and be comfortable in the face of hunger, homelessness, insecurity, and injustice found in this country and the world.”**

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



## Pat Sursely

We remember and celebrate the life of service of Pat Sursely who passed away January 6. Pat served in the Missions Office from 1976-1981, and continued with his guidance and support from other positions at the archdiocese. “The place God calls you to is where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.” (F. Buechner). Thank you, Pat, for answering God's call.



## Pastoral Workers Killed in 2011

The Vatican's mission news service (FIDES) has published an annual document of pastoral workers who lost their lives in a violent manner in 2011. Twenty-six pastoral care workers were killed: one more than the previous year: 4 religious sisters, 4 lay people, 18 priests.

For the third consecutive year, the place most affected was the Americas, bathed with the blood of 13 priests and 2 lay persons. Following was Africa, where 6 pastoral workers were killed: 2 priests, 3 religious sisters, 1 lay person; Asia where 1 religious sister, 2 priests, 1 lay person were killed.

The full news story: [www.fides.org/eng/documents/missionaries\\_killed\\_2011.doc](http://www.fides.org/eng/documents/missionaries_killed_2011.doc).



***"Whatever you did for  
one of these least...  
you did for me."  
(Matthew 25:40)***



In the Archdiocese of Seattle this Lent, households in **every** parish and classrooms in many schools are placing the Catholic Relief Services' **Operation Rice Bowls** on tables and desks. The prayer below, printed on the cardboard Rice Bowl and on the **Lenten Calendar** in English and Spanish (available in Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Polish and Tagalog), will be shared daily throughout the archdiocese.

The Lenten Calendars 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 **\$389,459.40** for food programs in western Washington and for CRS development projects overseas!

Educator Guides (grades 1-12) and Coordinator Guides have been distributed to volunteer leaders, parish staff and catechists, and school faculties. These materials are also included on a CD-ROM/DVD with short videos for group/classroom use. Featured countries this year are Madagascar, El Salvador, Zambia, Vietnam and India. Schools and parishes here can also connect with any of the 194 projects in western Washington currently funded with the 25% share of Rice Bowl donations. All of the resources (English and Spanish), including Stations of the Cross are available at the CRS Rice Bowl website: <http://orb.crs.org>. In addition, the Missions Office again is providing **placemats** for parish soup suppers/fish fry, school meals, etc..

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

#### **Lenten Prayer**

God of the poor, we long to see Your face.  
You tell us, "whatever you did for one of these least you did for me."  
May we recognize You in each of our brothers and sisters.  
May our prayers and fasting unite us with those who hunger.  
May we share of our blessings with those in need. Amen.

#### **Oración de Cuaresma**

Dios de los pobres, anhelamos ver tu cara.  
Nos dices: "todo lo que hicieron por uno de estos más pequeños lo hicieron por mí".  
Que podamos reconocerte en cada uno de nuestros hermanos y hermanas.  
Que nuestras oraciones y el ayuno nos unan con los que padecen hambre.  
Que podamos compartir nuestras bendiciones con los necesitados. Amén.

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