

Good News from the MISSIONS OFFICE

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

710 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

March 2010

We Save Ourselves Together

*Then the Lord was stirred to concern for his land
and took pity on his people.*

— Joel 2:18 (from the first day of Lent's readings)

"We must not try to save our souls
the way people save a treasure.
We must save our souls the way people
lose a treasure. By spending it."

Words of Péguy,* a call to generosity,
awareness of the needs of others,
moving about with our eyes open,
willing to share, to stand with others.

A dozen years ago, in Brazil's interior,
these children looked, clutching a fence,
friendly, a bit of food in hand, wondering
who held the camera, a stranger for sure.

The brother smiled, knowing the taller
onlooker, Eric, a friend, more than a
tour guide among families of the Cedro,
farm workers who owned little.

Jesus came among the human family,
preaching simply, living good example,
empowering followers, inviting all.
We called his gift grace, freely given.

"We must save ourselves together.
We must not come to look for our God
without each other. We must return all
together to the house of our Father.

"We must also think a little about
each other and work for each other.
What might God say, if we arrived
without each other?" — Péguy

**French poet, essayist and editor (1873-1914).*

*These words were often quoted by Dorothy Day,
co-founder of the Catholic Worker.*



Source: Text and photo by Abbot Barnabas Senecal, OSB;
St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, in *Celebration* magazine.

Remembering Oscar Romero

**Wednesday, March 24, 5:30pm Mass
followed by the Way of the Cross**
at St. James Cathedral
(9th Avenue & Marion Street, Seattle)



The events will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Archbishop Romero with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, and followed by Stations of the Cross led by Fr. Michael G. Ryan, Pastor of St. James Cathedral, who will include meditations from the writings and homilies of Archbishop Romero. All are invited to a screening of the 1989 film Romero, in the Pastoral Outreach Center Community Room (9th and Columbia St.) after. For more information visit www.stjames-cathedral.org.

JustFAITH

Save the Date!

April 15, Thursday evening

A presentation by Jack Jezreel, founder of JustFaith
Open to all!

At Holy Family parish, Kirkland.

See page six (back page of newsletter) for more details.



African Connections Conference

April 24, 2010, Saturday

At: Mary Queen of Peace church, Sammamish.
Presenters include Joe Hastings of Catholic Relief Services and Wilybard Lagho from the

Archdiocese of Mombasa, Kenya. Prayer, liturgy and music lead by ministers from Africa.

Topics include starting a sister parish or school partnership, water well projects, village libraries, solar cooking, microfinance projects and more.

For parishes and other communities in the Archdiocese of Seattle involved in partnership in Africa — and for any others simply interested in Africa! Admission: free. Bring brown bag lunch. Please visit www.catholicafrikanconnections.org for information.



Stations of the Cross — new resource

Reflect on the passion of Jesus and witness to the suffering of all of creation today.

Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center's (IPJC) **Stations of the Cross with All of Creation** is now available for purchase. Each station includes: scripture, meditation on the cross in creation, and a reflection question. The 15 Stations consider the suffering of Jesus, our planet and its people and envision resurrection and new life. The Stations are \$2 a copy with quantity discounts on orders of 20 or more. Contact IPJC for more information, ipjc@ipjc.org or 206.223.1138; www.ipjc.org (where you can view a sample).



"Explore My Mission" Contest

Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers are again sponsoring an "Explore My Mission" contest, with the winners spending 2 weeks in Tanzania, East Africa.

"It couldn't be easier to participate; you just need to visit our contest site at www.exploremymission.org and upload a one-to three-minute video which shows yourself engaged in service through your church or in your community. Your video doesn't need to be professional — you're not being judged on production values — but it does need to show us how you participate in "mission" in your life: soup kitchen volunteer, school volunteer, church volunteer, overseas volunteer, etc."

Video entry deadline is April 9, 2010

The contest is open to Catholics, 18-35 who are legal U.S. residents and hold a valid U.S. passport.



Pax Christi introductory meeting

A meeting to introduce Pax Christi, the national Catholic peace movement, will take place on **Tuesday, April 27**, in the Pastoral Center at St. James Cathedral from 7 to 9 PM.

A speaker from the National Office will present Pax Christi, its origins, history and organization, and what is involved in organizing local chapters. Please visit www.paxchristiusa.org. Contact the Missions Office if you want a referral to the meeting's organizers.

GOOD NEWS is published monthly, September through June, 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.seattlearch.org/missions

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HCA National Prayer Week

March 10–21, 2010

The Holy Childhood Association (HCA), a Pontifical Mission Society, sponsors National Prayer Week every year. Kids in the United States remember their brothers and sisters in the Missions by saying a special HCA prayer. For more HCA resources for grades 1-8, for all times of the year, visit www.hcakids.org.

National Prayer Week Prayer for 2010

Dear God,

Through our Baptism, we are called to share Your love and Your peace everywhere. We are Your ambassadors, sent to bring the "Good News" of Jesus to all, beginning in our own communities and reaching "to the ends of the earth."

Fill our hearts with the love and peace of Jesus, especially as we meet Him in the Sacraments. Help us to be examples of Your compassion and a source of Your hope to all, especially those who are poor, lonely, suffering and sick.

Give us strength to show others what it means to follow Jesus. Help us to answer the call to be His witnesses, His missionaries.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who is Lord forever.
Amen.

Querido Dios,

Por medio de nuestro bautismo estamos llamados a compartir tu amor y tu paz a donde quiera que vayamos. Somos tus embajadores, enviados a llevar la "Buena Nueva" de Jesús a todos, comenzando con nuestras propias comunidades, hasta llegar "a los confines de la tierra."

Llena nuestros corazones con el amor y la paz de Jesús, especialmente cuando nos encontramos con El en los Sacramentos. Ayúdanos a ser ejemplos de tu compasión y una fuente de esperanza para todos, especialmente para los pobres, los abandonados, los que sufren y los enfermos.

Danos la fuerza para mostrar a los demás lo que significa seguir a Jesús. Ayúdanos a responder al llamado de ser sus testigos, sus misioneros.

Te los pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, tu hijo, quien es Dios por siempre.
Amén.



The spirit is breathing,
All those with eyes to see,
women and men
with ears for hearing
detect a coming dawn;
a reason to go on.
They seem small,
these signs of dawn,
perhaps ridiculous.
All those with eyes to see,
women and men
with ears for hearing
uncover in the night
a certain gleam of light;
they see the reason to go on.

Source: *It's Midnight, Lord*, by Dom Helder Camara,
former Archbishop of Recife and Olinda, Brazil.

Illustration: © 2003 Liturgy Training Publications, art by Julie Lonneman

The Holy Land: Challenges and Lights of Hope

By Joe Hastings, Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Since I teach classes about the Bible, I was excited to visit the Holy Land this past December. It was deeply moving to visit Bethlehem and to pray at the Church of the Nativity, marking the place of Jesus' birth. Of course, almost everything is different from the time of Jesus, but some things are the same: the geography, the presence of



people there living in poverty, and military occupation. Today, much of what we call the Holy Land comprises the West Bank, where Palestinian people live under the military occupation of their neighbor, Israel. Catholic Relief Services has been working in the West Bank since the late 1940's, helping poor people there to improve their lives amidst a situation of political and military conflict.

In the West Bank, one sees two challenges that go hand in hand all the time: one is poverty and the other is free movement. "Movement of staff is a huge issue," says Ian Delarossa, Deputy County Director for Jerusalem, Gaza, West Bank. "With over 500 checkpoints in the West Bank, I cannot simply send staff from one office to another." Some staff are allowed to pass through checkpoints – on some days, and others are not.

The problems of movement are painful for the people who live there. At the Deheisheh Refugee Camp just outside Bethlehem, we went up to the rooftop of the five-story cultural center. There our guide pointed northwest. "If you look there, between the hills, those far buildings are Jerusalem." We squinted into the distance. "This is the only way I can see Jerusalem," he added. We were in Bethlehem, not 15 miles from Jerusalem, but because of the Israeli Occupation, because of the checkpoints, this ordinary citizen was not allowed to travel to Jerusalem, the city where his family had lived for generations.

The restrictions on movement exacerbate the poverty in both the West Bank and Gaza. Many Palestinians once worked in Israel's First World economy. Today, with restrictions on movement, that is no longer possible, and almost half of Palestinian men in the West are unemployed. The situation is worse in Gaza, where CRS also works. Since the war there last December/2008-January/2009, a war that took the lives of 30 Israelis and over 1400 Palestinians,

two-thirds of men are unemployed.

So one way that CRS helps in this region is by putting people to work. In the village of Beit Sahour, we walked a road recently constructed from men who work 25 hours a month in exchange for food assistance (a supply of oil, chickpeas, flour, sugar, etc.). The men also receive training to improve their family farms that grow grapes, almonds, and olives. Throughout the West Bank, the **Food-for-Work** program serves about 2100 families, putting men to work and food on the table.

In the neighboring village of Ubeidyeh, I visited the **Ubeidyeh Rural Women's Development Society**, also organized by CRS. Using sewing machines provided by CRS, the women produce beautiful hand-embroidered clothing, purses, and tablecloths which they sell at fairs and local markets. The project not only generates some income, but also builds a stronger sense of community among the women. "Before we were often isolated in our homes. Now we have reasons to come together, to learn together and work together," explained one woman.

Back in Beit Sahour, we visited the **Holy Land Handicraft Cooperative**, an organization of 35 artisans who make beautiful souvenirs of carved wood and mother-of-pearl. CRS helped the Cooperative become Fair-Trade certified. Fair-Trade is a commitment to provide fair wages and good working conditions to poor farmers and artisans worldwide. The Cooperative strengthens the local employment and brings Christian values of fairness and justice into the local market. Both results are lights of hope in the West Bank's difficult and unjust situation.

Joe Hastings is Education Organizer for Catholic Relief Services. He is based in Seattle. Artwork by Lee Miller.

You can learn more about the work of Catholic Relief Services in the Holy Land, and find a link to fair trade partner SERRV, at www.crs.org/jerusalem. We in the Missions Office are grateful for your support of the annual CRS Collection, held this March in all of our parishes, which in part supports programs in the West Bank and Gaza.



Reflection for March 28, 2010 – Palm Sunday

Prepared by Linda Unger, Maryknoll Magazine and Maryknoll Revista 1993-2010

Source: Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns: Peace, Social Justice & Integrity of Creation; www.maryknollogc.org.

Artwork by Lee Miller.

Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14-23:56



The days swirling around this Palm Sunday 2010 mark the 30th anniversary of the death of San Salvador Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero. It was always striking to me that Romero should have been killed by an assassin's bullet the Monday before Palm Sunday and that his funeral, which was interrupted by more bloodshed, should have occurred the Monday following – the doorway to Holy Week, in 1980. Romero's commitment to peace was unmoved by the violence that

continually threatened him in the last three years of his life. Instead, he echoed Christ's own response to violence, "Stop! No more of this!"

Oscar Romero was a quiet, soft-spoken man, "except when he was in the pulpit," recalls Franciscan Brother Octavio Durán, who was a seminarian in El Salvador at the time Romero was consecrated archbishop. Romero's homilies were long, bold, detailed teachings, rooted in Scripture and in the life of the "church of God" in El Salvador.

Week after week, he recalled by name the victims of the growing violence in the country. Though I did not know Romero, nor those who were killed, tortured or disappeared in the late 1970s, I used to listen to tapes of his homilies and pray with the litany of victims, until the tapes finally wore out. I understood this holy man to say that if we forget those who suffer violence at the hands of others, we run the risk of dismissing their humanity, our own, and that even of the perpetrators.

Having passed through his own mighty conversion, Romero constantly called the church to a change of heart. Shortly before his death, he told a reporter, "You can tell the people that if they succeed in killing me, I forgive and bless those who do it." Romero thus put into words the action of Jesus in the garden of his capture when Jesus raised his hand to heal and restore the ear of the high priest's servant, cut off by an overzealous disciple, whom Jesus

corrected in that same motion.

In our day, we remain tempted by violence, whether as self-defense, self-indulgence or revenge. Today, armed conflict or all-out war rages in 20 countries around the world. There is violence in our homes, our neighborhoods and in our church and other houses of worship. There is violence in our language, music and art. The meek are considered weak and the brash bold.

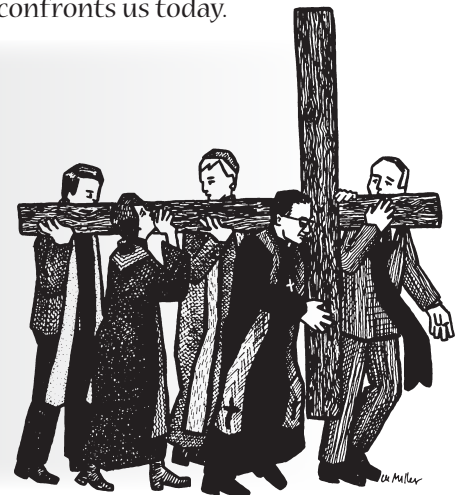
Yet how much more courage and boldness does it take to both name the violence and victims in our lives, society and world and to forgive the perpetrators? Even in small, day-to-day conflicts we find this difficult. It is much easier to ignore or justify the event, sweep it under the emotional rug, or cathartically lash out at the wrongdoer with no real intention of evoking change.

Jesus models for us the way of peace when he identifies himself with the poor and those who suffer and calls persecutors to conversion through forgiveness. In Luke's gospel Jesus' lament over his abandonment by God is replaced by words of forgiveness for those who mock, beat and crucify him: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (23:34).

The path he walks is made of love, humility and the healing grace of forgiveness. In the letter to the Philippians, Paul underscores this when, reciting a well-known hymn, tells how Jesus "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" (2:7-8).

Oscar Romero chose to follow Jesus and to accept the consequences of a life of service to the poor, a life that could be violently unpopular with the powers of the time. Yet, he did not respond to violence with a call for more violence but, rather, trusted in love. "My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced," as the prophet Isaiah says (50:6-7).

This same choice confronts us today.



A Call to Transform Our Hearts and the World

Presenter: Jack Jezreel

We are called to be compassionate as our God is compassionate (Luke 6:36), but what does the compassion of Christ look like in the modern world? Do you want to embark on a spiritual journey into the compassion of Christ? Would you like to achieve more meaning in your life? Come learn how to embrace the Gospel in ways that respond to the world's needs by working for justice that liberates, restores, and heals.

The vision of the Gospels and Catholic social teaching speak to life-giving choices on behalf of a world struggling to survive. Learn how you can make a difference and live out your baptismal call to serve the Lord and one another.

When:

Thursday, April 15, 2010

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Where:

**Holy Family Catholic Church
Church building**

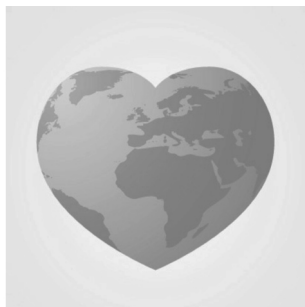
7355 120th Ave NE

Kirkland, WA 98033

Contact: Andrea Liggett

425-822-0295

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About the presenter: Jack Jezreel, popular national speaker and justice educator, holds a Master of Divinity degree from Notre Dame, spent six years in a Catholic Worker Community, and has been involved with parish-based justice ministry for 25 years. He is the author of JustFaith and serves as Executive Director of JustFaith Ministries. He received the prestigious Harry Fagan Award in 2006 for his contribution to the achievement of the Catholic vision of social justice. He is married and has three daughters.

Quotes for approaching the liturgy of Holy Thursday

(and for other times of the year)



art by Peter Yuichi Clark

"The Christian who takes part in the Eucharist learns to become a promoter of communion, peace, justice, and solidarity in every situation. The Eucharist is a great school of peace to form men and women. There is one other point which I would like to emphasize since it significantly affects the authenticity of our communal sharing in the Eucharist. It is the impulse which the Eucharist gives to the community for a practical commitment to building a more just and fraternal society. We cannot delude ourselves: by our mutual love and in particular by our concern for those in need- the poor, hungry, unemployed, immigrants, etc... we will be recognized as true followers of Christ. This will be the criterion by which the authenticity of our Eucharistic celebrations is judged."

— John Paul II, *Instruction for the Eucharistic Year, 2005*

"Life in many poor countries is still extremely insecure as a consequence of food shortages, and the situation could become worse: hunger still reaps enormous numbers of victims among those who, like Lazarus, are not permitted to take their place at the rich man's table, contrary to the hopes expressed by Paul VI. *Feed the hungry* (cf. Mt 25: 35, 37, 42) is an ethical imperative for the universal Church, as she responds to the teachings of her Founder, the Lord Jesus, concerning solidarity and the sharing of goods."

— Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth)*

"Thank you all for your wonderful response through Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl program this Lent! It is our privilege to assist the parishes and schools of this archdiocese to help create a place at the table for everyone, everywhere."

— your Missions Office

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