

Good News from the MISSIONS OFFICE

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

710 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

November 2012

Prayer for Grace and Abundance



Creator God, we ask that you move us
Beyond the poverty of mindless consumption
To the abundance of your Church's social teachings.

We ask that you move us
Beyond our impoverished need of material things
To the richness of solidarity
with our brothers and sisters
Throughout our country
And around the world.

We ask that you move us
Beyond the empty drive
to store up individual possessions
To recognize the wealth of working
For the common good.

Grace us to consider the human dignity
And the rights as well as needs
Of everyone in our local,
National and global communities
Without counting the cost,
Knowing that, as we have read
In the recounting of the distribution
Of the loaves and fishes,
There is always enough
For everyone to come to the table.

We thank you
For this abundance.
In Christ's name
We pray.
Amen.

By Jane Deren, www.educationforjustice.org.

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



"Like" us on Facebook! The Missions Office now has a Facebook page!

In addition to our website and this newsletter, our Facebook page is an excellent way to stay in-the-know about events, programs and resources promoted by your Missions Office. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SeattleMissionsOffice.



African Connections/ Sister Parish Conference

April 20, 2013, Saturday

Save the date! More info to come.

At: St. Bridget church, Seattle.



CRS Rice Bowl Webinar January 16th from 10:00 – 11:00a.m.

Rice Bowl has a new look, a new name, and new materials to boot – but it's still the same great Lenten program! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 16th, and join Missions staff, CRS staff, and others in an (Archdiocese of Seattle) online classroom environment to learn more about the updated program for Lent 2013. Questions? Contact Missions Office (below).



International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women – November 25

www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday

www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program



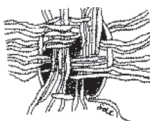
Maryknoll Mission Forum

Friday, November 16th

**Finding a Way Together:
the Lifeway of Jesus and the Lifeway
of the Coast Salish People**

Speaker: Fr. Pat Twohy, SJ. 7:00pm at the Maryknoll Mission House, 958 16th Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98112

Phone: 206-322-8831; seattle@maryknoll.org.



Justice Education Forum: A Teach-In on Economic Justice

December 1, 2012 . Seattle University

Keynote: Mark McDermott, MPA

Workshops by: Seattle University Career Services, Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center, and JustFaith Ministries. Event is free and open to the public.

To register, or for more information, visit www.seattleu.edu/magis/programs/justice.



Christmas artwork contest

Your students could see their artwork appear as Christmas e-greetings on MCA's website for kids – www.mcakids.org – and displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during Advent and Christmas 2013. 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 MCA no later than **January 31, 2013**. Info and form are available through Missions Office, below, and at the "Teachers" page at www.mcakids.org.



December 1 – World AIDS Day

Resources from Catholic Relief Services at <http://worldaidsday.crs.org>.



Justice Cafe: Young Adults + Community + Spirituality + Justice

November Justice Cafés are active! (Topic: Abilities & Disabilities) To learn about how to bring Justice Cafes to your local community, contact the Intercommunity Peace & Justice

Center at 206-223-1138 or ipjc@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 to learn more about bringing Justice Cafes to young adults in your parish, campus or local community. For more general information on Justice Cafes, visit their website: <http://ipjcjusticecafe.ning.com>.



Social Ministry Gathering in D.C. Washington, DC. February 10 - 13, 2013

Sponsored by Justice, Peace and Human Development department of the U.S. bishops' conference, and by many other organizations.

Theme: Promoting Human Life and Dignity in the Year of Faith. Info and registration available at www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development.

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

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These prayers and artwork are gifts to our readers from 8th graders at St. Francis of Assisi school, Burien.

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

Heavenly Father,

Open our hearts to bring all people to our table.

Encourage us to accept people for who they are.

Guide us to look beyond the surface of others to see what's within.

Help us to make our own decisions without the influence of others.

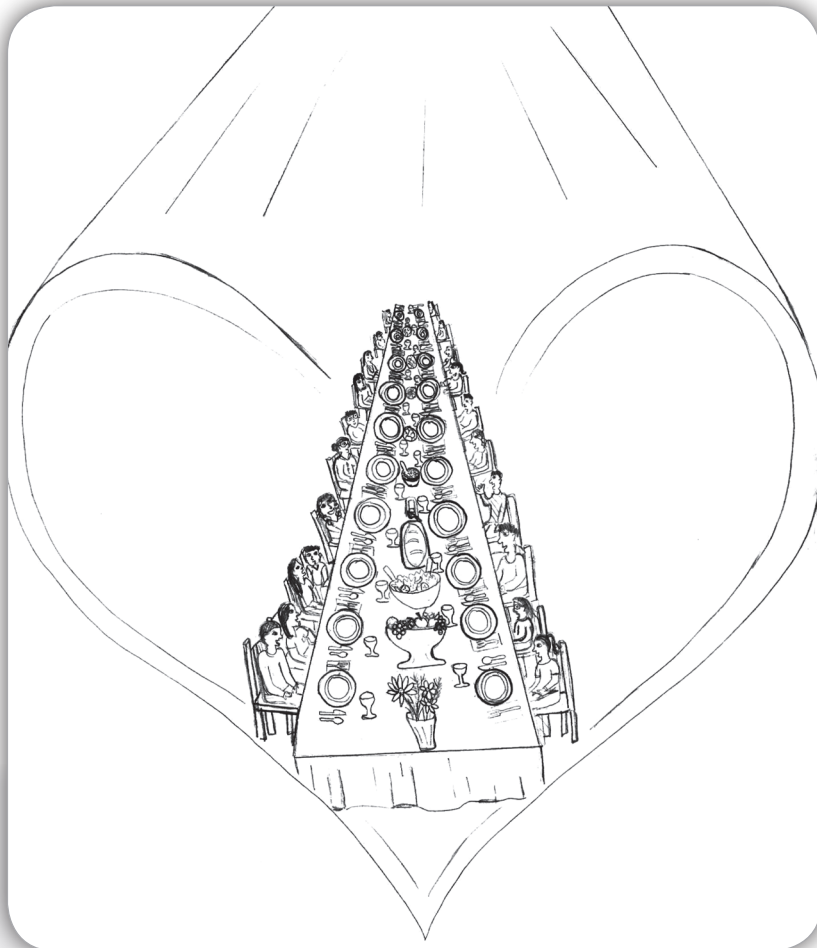
Show us how to live in solidarity with one another.

Let us treat others the way we want to be treated.

Lead us to your table, Lord, so that we may feast together as one.

Amen.

As Catholics, we must come together with a common conviction that we can no longer tolerate the moral scandal of poverty in our land and so much hunger and deprivation in our world.



The principle of solidarity reminds us that as members of one human family, we see every "other" as our neighbor, who must share in the "banquet of life to which all are equally invited by God."



Lord, please help us to think of those who are not usually welcome at the table.

Let us be moved to pull up chairs for them.

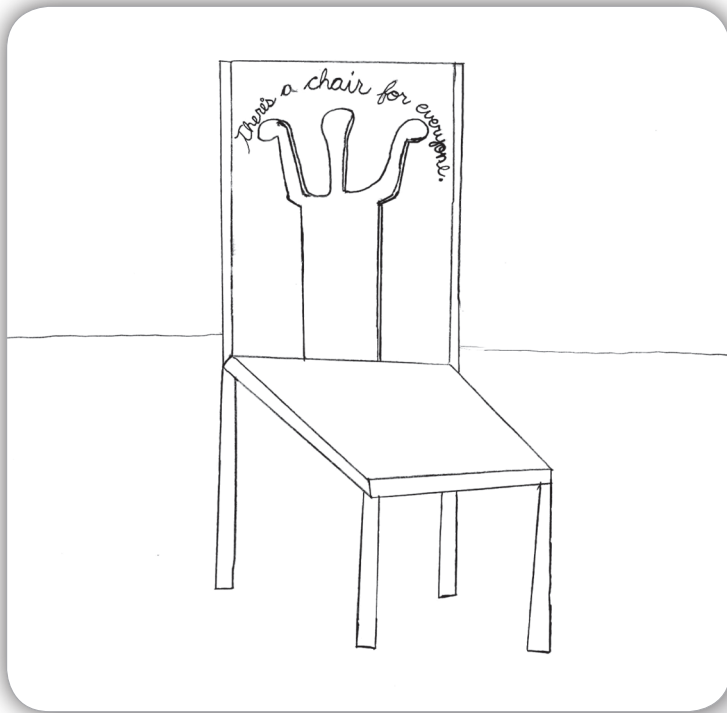
Forgive us for abandoning those who have little or no wealth.

May we be more thankful for what we have.

We ask for and receive so much in our lives, while many do not even ask because they know they are not included.

Put us in solidarity with all of these people.

And help us to live as you created us to be.
Amen.



Our Church's commitment to find A Place at the Table for all God's children is expressed in every part of our country and in the poorest places on earth... Our faith gives us the strength, identity, and principles we need to sustain this work.

Most heavenly God,
When inviting people to our table,
We look only to our friends and family.
This is unfair and unjust.
We should look past,
And invite all people to our table.

The people who are forgotten,
Abandoned,
And non-believers of our Father.

Let us come together in unison,
And realize that
No matter how different,
We are all children of God.
Amen.

The table we seek for all rests on these four institutions, or legs: (1) what families and individuals can do, (2) what community and religious institutions can do, (3) what the private sector can do, and (4) what the government can do to work together to overcome poverty.

~ Quotes from *A Place at the Table*, a 2002 pastoral statement by the U.S. bishops ~

O Lord,

Your son, Jesus Christ, welcomed everyone to His table with open arms.

He loved the sick and the poor, the sinners and the rich.

Let Jesus be an example to us.

By opening our hearts to others, we are honoring His sacrifice.

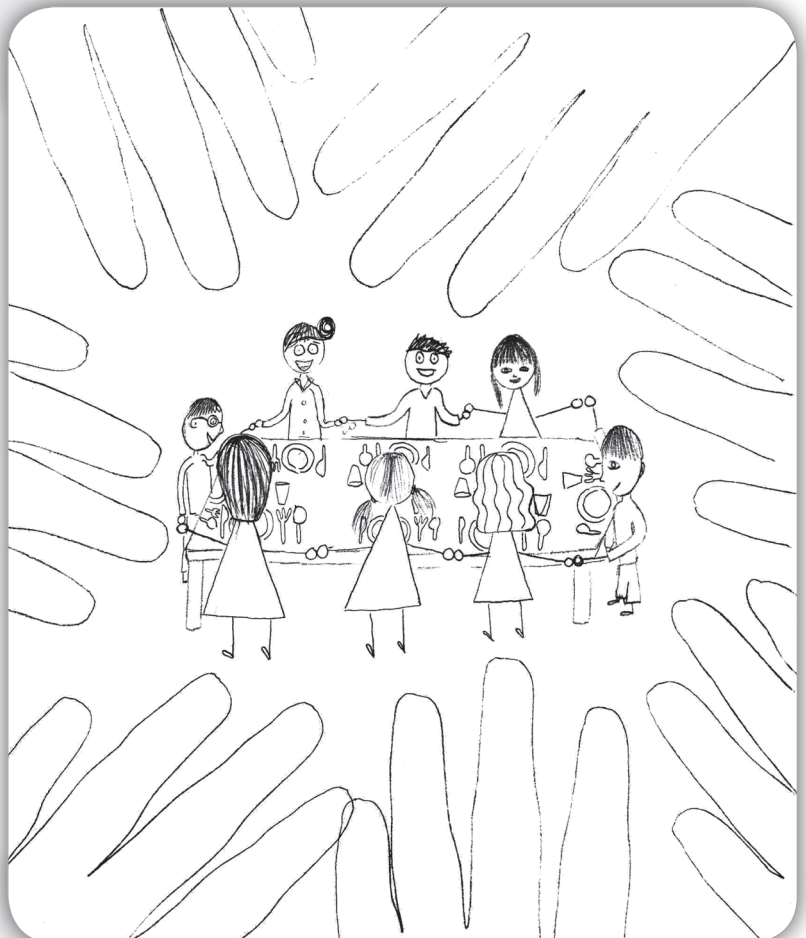
He died to save us from our sins; He loved those who were cruel to him.

He forgives us every day.

Let us be so like Jesus that we are forgiving and welcoming to all of God's people.

Amen.

In the Catholic tradition, concern for the poor is advanced by individual and common action, works of charity, efforts to achieve a more just social order, the practice of virtue, and the pursuit of justice in our own lives. It requires action to confront structures of injustice that leave people poor.



Electing a Kenyan leader

"What comes first, the integrity of leaders or their religious affiliation? Wish to be governed by a dishonest leader belonging to your religious affiliation or an honest leader, regardless of his religious identity," asks Fr. Wilybard Lagho, Vicar of the Mombasa Archdiocese, Kenya, and President of the Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics (CCC), in a reflection on the upcoming presidential elections which will be held in Kenya next year. [Note: Fr. Lagho has been a visitor to, and part-time minister in, the Archdiocese of Seattle.]

"The elections will be an opportunity for voters to choose honest leaders, irrespective of their wealth, ethnic or religious affiliation. The choice of political leaders will be a test of the voters own integrity," said the document sent to Fides new agency. In reference to the recent sectarian clashes that took place in Mombasa, Fr. Lagho, referring both to the Koran and the Bible, urges Christians and Muslims to peaceful coexistence and good neighborliness.

"In the coastal region, especially in Mombasa, where Muslims and Christians live in the same neighborhoods, let us envisage living together in peace. One of my favorite

'Hadith' (Sayings of the Prophet) regarding the good neighborhood depicts Jibrael (Gabriel) who recommended to treat neighbors kindly and politely, to the point that I thought I would he would order me to make them my heirs (Sahih All Bukhari – The book of Ahkam)."

In reading the parable of the Good Samaritan in the Gospel, Fr. Lagho recalls: "Christians are taught that your neighbors is the most needy, in other words, the most vulnerable, irrespective of their social, ethnic and religious affiliation (see Luke 20, 25-37)."

"Let religious leaders therefore unite and encourage voters to choose honest leader who will liberate our people from the corrupt leadership that has, unfortunately, led to chronic impunity in our Nation. For once, let the believers rise above social, ethnic and religious affiliation in the choice of political leaders," said Fr. Lagho.

Source: Fides, the Vatican's missionary news agency



Gift certificate for your best practice!

Have a great lesson plan or activity relating to mission? Submit it to Maryknoll! If they select it to be posted on their "best practices" blog (<http://missioneducationbestpractices.blogspot.com>), you will receive a **\$50 gift certificate** for ORBIS and other Maryknoll educational resources. Just email your materials to Kevin Foy at seattle@maryknoll.org.

Possible lesson topics might include:

- Service and witness of God's love
- Global solidarity
- Social justice
- Peace
- Care for creation
- Respect and understanding of religious traditions
- Cultural understanding
- How liturgy and prayer guide us in mission

You can browse Maryknoll resources at www.maryknollsociety.org. They include posters, videos, books, and coloring books. All posted resources will be credited to the creator and shared free of charge. Please make sure that you own and have permission to share your materials.



YEAR OF FAITH 2012

"We must therefore ensure that in every Christian community the poor feel at home. Would not this approach be the greatest and most effective presentation of the good news of the Kingdom?"

"Without this form of evangelization through charity and without the witness of Christian poverty the proclamation of the Gospel, which is itself the prime form of charity, risks being misunderstood or submerged by the ocean of words which daily engulfs us in today's society of mass communications. The charity of *works* ensures an unmistakable efficacy to the charity of *words*."

— Blessed John Paul II

Bishops' statement on...

At their fall assembly in mid-November the U.S. bishops will consider a statement on work and the economy proposed by the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development as a way to raise the profile of growing poverty and the struggles that unemployed people are experiencing.

The statement, titled "Catholic Reflections on Work, Poverty and a Broken Economy," is expected to advance the bishops' priority of human life and dignity to demonstrate the new evangelization in action. We at the Missions Office will post a link to the statement (and any accompanying resources, such as www.povertyusa.org) on our website.



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A PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING AND SHARING

*Thanks for the abundance, help up to share
Thanks for the water that helps all to grow,
help us to share.
Thanks for the land that allows us to plant,
help us to share.
Thanks for the air that lets us all breathe,
help us to share.
Thanks for the knowledge that lets us produce,
help us to share it.
Thank for the seeds that allow us to plant,
help us to share them.
Thanks for the harvest that we have been given,
help us to share it.
Thanks for the transportation that we may
move our food,
help us to share.
Thanks for the Spirit that
lets us share all that
we are. Amen.*



World AIDS Day is December 1

Hear our prayer, O God of mercy and love,
for all who live with HIV or AIDS.
Grant them loving companions
who will support them in the midst of fear;
give them hope for each day to come,
that every day may be lived with courage and faith.
Bless them with an abundance of your love,
that they may live with concern for others.
Pour on them the peace and wholeness,
which you alone can give.
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who came to give us abundant life.
Amen.

*By Vienna Cobb Anderson (shortened version)
in Prayers, Litanies and Liturgies, Diocese of the Highveld, South Africa.*