

Good News *from the* MISSIONS OFFICE

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

710 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

February 2014

IN OUR LIFETIMES ALONE

God of peace,

In our lifetimes alone,
We have seen miracles of reconciliation
Nations built by neighbors who were
enemies for generations
Living side by side as neighbors were
meant to live.

In our lifetimes alone,
We have seen imperial forces recede
Not in the face of superior firepower
But in the face of human dignity
Standing and showing itself in all its glory.

In our lifetimes alone,
We have seen walls tumble—
Walls meant to separate the deadliest
of foes—
Greeted by the mutual embrace of a humanity
That would not be separated.

In our lifetimes alone,
We have seen Muslim and Christian
Stand watch over one another in deadly times
So one may bow and pray to you
While the other watched and protected.

In our lifetimes alone,
We have seen shoots of renewal spring up from the blood of martyrs
Rather than from the choking vines and thorns of revenge.

In our lifetimes alone,
We have seen plagues beaten back
We have seen fruits bloom in the desert
We have seen purses spilled open in times of great need
We have seen strangers reach toward each other across every divide
We have seen your children sacrifice themselves over and over for
one another
We have seen rattling sabers drawn, and then blessedly resheathed,
in the face of prayer and wisdom.

God of peace,
You sing to us of a time when the wolf shall dwell with the lamb
In our lifetimes alone
We have seen it.
How can we doubt that you reign?

Amen.

Source: Catholic Relief Services, <http://crs.org/prayers>.



Pope Francis & the Future of the Church

“The Joy of the Gospel: A Place for Everyone”

Wednesday, February 26; 7:00 - 8:30 pm; St. Joseph Church, Seattle with Mark Bosco, S.J. of Loyola University Chicago and local panelists. *Free will offering.* For more information, contact andrea@ignatiancenter.org or (206) 329-4824.



Spring 2014 gathering for those who have participated in, or are involved currently in, a JustFaith

Ministries program (e.g. JustFaith, GoodNewsPeople, Engaging Spirituality, JusticeWalking, or a JustMatters module). Save the date: **May 3**. Place: TBD. Details will be emailed to all graduates and current facilitators in the Archdiocese of Seattle.



“Opening a Horizon of Hope: Transformed by Christ to Love All.”

A parish social ministry training conference for parish leaders in Portland and Seattle archdioceses to learn more about the Catholic social mission and to discover effective strategies to respond to needs and those on the margins.

April 4, Friday evening, and Saturday, **April 5**, 2014.

Place: Resurrection parish, Tualatin, Oregon. Keynotes by: Joan Rosenhauer, Executive Vice President, U.S. Operations Catholic Relief Services; Sheila Gilbert, President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul National Council/U.S. Complete schedule, workshops, registration – available soon; contact Missions Office staff or visit our website (below).



“Prayer and Penny Week”

March 16-23, 2014

The National Prayer and Penny Week Program from the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) honors the legacy of Pauline Jaricot – who encouraged prayers and help for the Missions. The program features daily reflections and suggestions for centering our prayers and our focus on the call to be missionaries and the needs of our mission family. Incorporated as well are additional resources centered on the catechetical theme for the year (from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops): “Open the Door of Faith.”

It's a “Prayer Movement” for the Missions, with young people taking the lead, and adding their sacrifices to care for God's people in a world of need. For resources and more information, visit www.MCAKids.org.



Nonviolence resource events

The Gospel and Nonviolence:

Dr. Ken Butigan will be speaking on nonviolence at St. Martin's University, Lacey, on February 8th, at 2:00pm.

For information: fr_marion@stmartin.edu.

The Nonviolent Life Campaign: Presentation and discussion, on March 16, 7pm-8:30pm, at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 8900 35th Ave NE, Seattle, WA, 98115. For information: lorrainehartmann@comcast.net.

For more on the above items: <http://paceebene.org>.



Catholic Advocacy Day

Friday, February 21, 2014

This year's theme is *Proclaim Justice & Life for All!*

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. For information about Catholic Advocacy Day and to register ASAP, email: dialogueforjustice@ccsww.org, or visit www.ccsww.org and go to “Advocacy.”



Webinar for Religious Educators, Teachers, and Catechists

February 13, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm (Pacific time)

Religious educators, teachers, and catechists will have a chance to learn about and share their own ideas for using Rice Bowl resources creatively during Lent in classroom, family, and whole community catechetical settings.

[Note: This webinar will be recorded for later viewing at www.crsricebowl.org/parish and www.crsricebowl.org/schools.]



Together We Come to the Water: 8th annual Catholic African Connections Conference

Saturday, March 22, 2014 -9 am to 2 pm
St. Bridget Church, 4900 NE 50th Street, Seattle

Morning break-out sessions, an African Mass, a taste of African Peanut Soup, and plenty of networking opportunities. This free event is open to all who are involved with (or just thinking about) a partnership beyond our borders, particularly in Africa. Register by contacting your Missions Office (below), acting as liaison to the Planning Committee.

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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Bring the New Evangelization
to Life in Your Parish!

Download Your
FREE Parish Resource

GoodNewsPeople is a dynamic program that invites
your parish to answer the call of the New Evangelization.
Get your free resource and learn more:

The **GoodNewsPeople** program is a JustFaith Ministries program created to inspire, engage, and educate parishioners with the goal of mobilizing thousands of Catholics to become Good News People to the world.

Ten parishes in the Archdiocese of Seattle are participating this year (our first year), with about 1,000 parishioners involved.

GoodNewsPeople is a fourteen-session program (seven sessions, break, seven sessions) designed for multiple small groups (ideally 10 groups of 10 participants) within a parish.

GoodNewsPeople emphasizes the privilege and invitation for us to become vessels of God's hope-filled presence in the world and the "Good News" that, with God's grace, we have the power to change the world for the better.

The program is a dynamic process engaging sacred scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, readings and reflections, and Church teaching. The purpose of the program is to communicate hope, love, and possibilities found in a faithful commitment to be "Good News" in the world today.

To learn about this program, visit <http://goodnewspeople-jfm.org> and contact the Missions Office (page two) to discuss possible financial assistance, and to be put in touch with adult faith formation staff and coordinators of this program in our current parishes.



The "thems"

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 23, 2014

Reflection by Sr. Luise Ahrens, MM, in A Maryknoll Liturgical Year: Reflections on the Readings for Year A; Orbis Books; Ed. Judy Coode and Kathy McNeely. Art by Ade Bethune.

Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18; Psalm 103:1-4,8,10,12-13; First Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48
And if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well. . . (Matthew 5:40)

The first reading and the psalm call us to love as God loves: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," and "As [a parent] has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him." And this steadfast love of God is, above all, universal; it is for every creature of God.

A few years ago, Gene LaVerdiere gave a retreat on scripture; participants were asked one by one to read a section of Luke's Christmas Gospel out loud: "There was no place for them in the inn." We all remember that piece about Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, and how they could not find a place to stay for the birth of Jesus. Then, Gene read the text himself, and he read it with a difference: "There was no place for *them* in the inn." The sense is completely changed, transformed – the picture moves from crowded inns to a culture of not receiving these "outsiders" into our place. He called us to look into our hearts, to name the "thems" in our own lives, the people who for us are "other." It was a serious and reflective time, one that brought some people to tears as they thought about their own issues of exclusion, of the need to put someone else down so that they themselves appeared to be better, of the hidden but real fear of those who seem different in some way, of the pain we cause by body language that manifests the sin of exclusion.

In Cambodia, disabled people are generally put away in the back of the house, sometimes chained if their issues are mental illness or antisocial behavior. Until recently, there was even a law excluding disabled people from becoming teachers. In 2010, the first blind students entered the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

They had been to a high school that was supervised by a group that specializes in teaching those who are blind or deaf, so it was a safe place for these young people. But the university is a different, scary place. It receives scholarship students from all over the country, so all of them are shy and uncertain in the beginning. When the new students arrived, as happens everywhere, the "cool kids" banded together, the others found friends, and the blind student, Sok Ang, was standing on the fringe of the group in the classroom, wanting to join in, but not knowing how.

This went on for a while until the teacher gathered the students together to talk, not wanting to point out difference, but rather seeking what was shared among all of them. She led them through a process in which each student wrote down what she or he wanted from university study, and then led them further in a reflective way to imagine life without legs, without arms, and then without eyes... It was like a miniresurrection as all eyes turned to their blind companion, Sok Ang, and the light of their thoughtless and self-preserving cruelty dawned. They said almost as one: "Oh, teacher, he is like us inside." The Gospel came alive – if someone asks for your coat, give him your cloak as well – Sok Ang is always supported now, is walked from class to class, is read to and encouraged, and he in turn is a friend to all.

It is this gift we take from these readings today and which we can give each other – keep asking who are the "thems" in our own lives; who do we exclude, intentionally or not; who are chosen for groups, for gatherings, for friendship. Are we, each one of us, willing indeed, to "be holy [as] I the Lord your God am holy"?



Webinar for Religious Educators, Teachers, and Catechists

February 13, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm (Pacific time)

Religious educators, teachers, and catechists will have a chance to learn about and share their own ideas for using Rice Bowl resources creatively during Lent in classroom, family, and whole community catechetical settings.

[Note: if you will be attending the Faith Formation event at the Palisades Retreat Center that day, this webinar will be recorded for later viewing at www.crsricebowl.org/parish.]

2014 Rice Bowl materials have arrived!

The resources (in English and Spanish) are now available online. They include education, prayer and activity resources for parishes, schools, individuals and families; recipes; and staff and volunteer preparation steps. Already we've heard great responses to the new DVD with short videos featuring overseas projects.

We have materials' orders from every parish and many schools; contact us if you need to verify or change amounts. Materials are free, of course! You can view and download many of the resources now at www.crsricebowl.org and <http://crsplatodearroz.org>.

Featured countries, programs and Catholic social teaching principles for 2014

Kenya – *Employment*; Sacredness and Dignity of the Human Person

Guatemala – *Education*; Rights and Responsibilities

Philippines – *Emergencies*; Option for the Poor

Malawi – *Agriculture*; Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

Haiti – *Mother and child health*; Call to Family, Community and Participation

United States – Use of the 25% share of donations kept in the local (arch)diocese, Solidarity. CRS materials each year feature a U.S. diocese (Santa Fe this year) or you can draw from a list of Rice Bowl grantees in this archdiocese – maybe in your local community – for bulletins and websites. Perhaps bring in a speaker from, or have a class or group visit, the grantee's site? Contact us in Missions Office for suggestions, and visit our CRS Rice Bowl web site (includes a list of 2013 grantees): www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ricebowl.

NOTE: Catholic Relief Services shipped the Rice Bowl materials in mid-January – addressed to our Rice Bowl contact person at each parish and at participating schools. Please contact Missions Office if you need additional items!

“Let us pray that God grant us the grace of knowing a world where no one dies of hunger.”

— Pope Francis, December 19, 2013



**Read the
Good News
(and other items!)
on our website.**



World Awareness Quiz

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl

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

1. Who said the following quote?

"In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children. ... How can I become a little poorer in order to be more like Jesus, who was the poor Teacher?"

- a. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta b. Pope Francis c. Blessed John Paul II d. Dorothy Day

2. Nearly _____ of the world's population suffers from hunger.

- a. 1/4 b. 1/8 c. 1/10 d. 1/18

3. In sub-Saharan Africa, the typical young girl carries _____ gallons of water _____ miles each day.

- a. 4 gallons, 4 miles b. 1 gallon, 1 mile c. 6 gallons, 2 miles d. 4 gallons, 2 miles

4. About _____ percent of the food that is produced for human consumption is thrown away each year.

- a. 5 percent b. 13 percent c. 25 percent d. 33 percent

5. During Lent, we should _____, _____ and _____.

- a. eat, dance, sing b. fast, study, play c. worship, sing, study d. pray, fast, give alms

6. _____ youth in developing nations and _____ youth in developed nations were not employed or enrolled in an education or training program in 2010.

- a. 341 million; 17 million b. 203 million; 5 million c. 5 million; 13 million d. 30 million; 2 million

7. _____ natural disasters such as hurricanes, typhoons and floods affected more than _____ people between 2011 and 2012.

- a. 500; 100 million b. 200; 200 million c. 300; 1 billion d. 700; 450 million

8. Through CRS Rice Bowl you are helping people _____.

- a. around the world b. in your community c. Both

9. In 2013, _____ Rice Bowl grants were made to food banks and other hunger fighting organizations in western Washington.

- a. 157 b. 207 c. 107

World Awareness Quiz Answers

1. (b) Quote cited from the Question and Answer session of a meeting between Pope Francis and students of Jesuit schools, 6/17/2013.
2. (b) 1/8 of the world's population, nearly 870 million people, suffer from hunger. The vast majority (98%) of hungry people live in the developing world.
3. (a) The typical young girl carries four gallons of water four miles each day. That's the equivalent of carrying 32 pounds on a two-hour walk. Roughly 11 percent of the world's population does not have access to safe water.
4. (d) 1.3 billion tons of food, or 33 percent of what is produced for human consumption, is thrown away each year. (United Nations Environment Programme, www.unep.org/wed/quickfacts/)
- Pope Francis tells us, "We should all remember, however, that throwing food away is like stealing from the tables of the poor, the hungry!" (World Environment Day, 6/5/13)
5. (d) Prayer, fasting and giving alms are the three pillars of Lenten spirituality.
6. (a) 341 million young people in developing countries and 17 million in developed countries were either unemployed or not enrolled in an educational program in 2010. Unemployment continues to be an issue for developing and developed nations alike. Of those youth that are employed in the developing world, more than 200 million earn less than \$2 a day.
7. (d) There were 700 registered natural disasters between 2011 and 2012, impacting the lives of more than 450 million people. In the developing world, weakened infrastructure means a natural disaster may have a longer-lasting impact and greater effect on social welfare and poverty. (International Monetary Fund, www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2012/wp122245.pdf)
8. (c) Through CRS Rice Bowl you are helping people around the world and in your own community. 75% of donations support CRS programs around the world and 25% of donations support local poverty and hunger alleviation programs in the United States.
9. (b) In 2013, your Missions Office awarded a record 207 Rice Bowl grants! Visit our website, www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ricebowl, for a full listing of the grants made, and to view the grant application materials.

This quiz in its original form in English and Spanish, as well as many other activities, can be found online at www.crsricebowl.org.

The above version can be found at www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ricebowl.

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Good News *from the* Missions Office

February 2014 – Page Six

Prayer for the New Evangelization

Increase our faith, O Lord, and breathe new life in us.

When our doubts and fears cloud our vision and we lose our way,
remind us of the perspective of your kingdom.

When our limitations and shortcomings become a burden that others must bear,
give us your grace and strength to seek freedom and forgiveness.

When we are tempted to face life's struggles on our own,
remind us we are part of a community; we belong together.

When the pace of life and the lure of consumerism pull us off course,
return our hearts to find their center in you.

Rooted and grounded in you, may we...
listen more deeply.
witness more joyfully.
love more unconditionally.
welcome others more inclusively.
respond to the gospel more creatively.
strive to be the good news the world desires.

We ask this in the name of Jesus whose love enfolds us and whose
Spirit empowers us.

Amen.



Source: Sr. Katherine Feely, SND, from a GoodNewsPeople
program resource for parishes. www.justfaith.org.
Art by Lee Miller.