

Good News from the MISSIONS OFFICE

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

710 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

March 2015

A Liberation Prayer

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark:

The sower sows the word.
These are the ones on the path where the word is sown.

As soon as they hear, Satan comes at once and takes away the word sown in them.
And these are the ones sown on rocky ground who, when they hear the word, receive it at once with joy.
But they have no roots; they last only for a time.

Then when tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.
Those sown among thorns are another sort.
They are the people, who hear the word, but worldly anxiety, the lure of riches, and the craving for other things intrude and choke the word, and it bears no fruit.
But those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis

From *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel):

Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, for enabling them to be fully a part of society.
(EG 187)

Common Prayer

- 1) God of Compassion, the cries of your people still rise to reach you.
- 2) You summon us, your Church, your people, to listen to the sufferings that rend heaven and earth.

- 1) You send us, your Church, your people, into our streets, our churches, and the halls of power to plead the cause of the anawim.
- 2) Every day you ask us to accompany each other on our long journey to justice.

- 1) So, God of justice, fill our own hearts with your compassion.
- 2) Grant us your sacred tenacity and courage.

- 1) Free us to listen deeply and with compassion, to speak with gentleness and without fear.
- 2) Help us to trust that you are in our midst every step of the way.

All: We ask this in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit, who are One God, without end. AMEN.



Source: Patty Repikoff, Pastoral Advocate for Mission at Catholic Community Services/Catholic Housing Services of Western Washington.
Art by Lee Miller.



Catholic Advocacy Day: “Proclaim Life and Justice for All” Thursday, March 26, 2015, in Olympia

Register as soon as possible, as space on the buses and in the meetings with legislators is limited and can't be guaranteed for last minute registrants or walk-ins. Visit www.ipjc.org.



World Water Day – March 22, 2015

Recognized by the United Nations and the global community, World Water Day reminds us that much of the world still faces a global water, sanitation and hygiene crisis, and that it is our urgent obligation to act. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. 2015 theme is “Water and Sustainable Development”.

Suggested resources: www.unwater.org/worldwaterday; www.facebook.com/UNWorldWaterDay; www.crs.org/water-sanitation; <http://wateraccessnow.org>; <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org>.



Social Action Summer Institute (SASI)

...will be held July 19-23 at the University of Portland with the theme: *CHERISHING CREATION: CALLED TO THE COMMON GOOD*. This national conference is organized by Roundtable with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Offices of Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Justice Peace & Human Development, Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Relief Services and JustFaith Ministries. SASI offers first-time participants a grounding in Catholic social teaching, biblical theology, the spirituality of social justice and practical parish and diocesan skills. The conference has options for single-day participation. Check it out at <http://catholicroundtable.org>.



2015 Multimedia Youth Contest

Sponsored by Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Local deadline is March 17th. For contest details visit www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/multimedia-youth-contest/index.cfm. If this year's deadline has passed by the time you read this, plan for next year to get youth involved!

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



Catholic African Connections Conference – April 25, 2015 “Together in the Spirit”

At Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Kent. Ninth annual event with great speakers and discussion topics. Join others for keynotes, Mass, break-out sessions, panel discussion 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. Contact the planning committee through the Missions Office (below) for more information or visit www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions.



Mission Congress 2015

Witnessing Mission: Called to be Missionary Disciples, October 1-4, 2015. Houston, TX.

A conference focused on various aspects of mission reality and reflective of the signs of the time. Every five years a Mission Congress is held in the U.S., hosted by various Catholic organizations. Visit <http://uscatholicmission.org>.

“The parish is.... a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach.” (*Pope Francis; Joy of the Gospel*, #27)



MCA Lenten Resources

Lent is a wonderful time to highlight and explore our missionary discipleship. MCA has developed resources for elementary and high school aged youth, in both English and Spanish. Available online, these include prayer services and age-appropriate “Stations of the Cross.” Materials for Youth are posted on the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) main website (onefamilyinmission.org) at the [Youth in Mission](#) page. MCA materials may be found at the [Advent / Lent](#) link on the MCA section of the website (www.onefamilyinmission.org).

Other Stations of the Cross resources:

CRS Rice Bowl: a Slideshow in English or Spanish, www.crsricebowl.org or www.crsplatodearroz.org

Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center’s **Stations of the Cross with All of Creation**: resource available in English or Spanish, view a sample and order at www.ipjc.org

STAFF:

J.L. Drouhard Director
 Kelly Hickman Assistant Director
 Veronica Fehrenbach Administrative Assistant

(206) 382-4580 or (800) 869-7028
E-mail: missionsoffice@seattlearch.org

Ragfinery and CCHD

The national Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has provided grant support for an innovative economic development project in Bellingham.

Ragfinery is a nonprofit business that provides jobs and job training for low income participants by upcycling and repurposing postconsumer clothes and fabric. Worker trainees help run the business that collects, sorts, sews, weaves, and sells goods made from used fabric and clothing.

Ragfinery also conducts workshops and classes for customers who want to learn the skills needed to create repurposed items of their own. The 4,000 square foot work space in downtown Bellingham has become a hub of activity with more than 100 volunteers joining in to learn, teach, and share.

“Creating local jobs from waste is a win-win-win proposition,” said project director Duane Jager. “Few people realize that only 15% of postconsumer clothing is donated to thrift stores,” he said. The rest is landfilled. Ragfinery encourages and accepts donations of unwanted cloths and fabric as feedstock for the business.

The other wasted resource, according to Jager, is the wasted human resource due to unemployment. He cites the fact that over 30% of working age adults are not included in unemployment statistics because they are neither working nor seeking work. “These workers have dropped off the radar,” he said.

In partnership with social service agencies and schools, Ragfinery provides work experience, skill development, and job training for this target population. Most of the trainees at Ragfinery are female household heads with limited work histories. Jager said that having a recent work reference is



Worker trainee, McKenzie Vlasic, shows the hand bag she learned to make from donated fabric at Ragfinery. To her left is her volunteer tutor, Sally Brinton.

essential when these women attempt to get off welfare and secure long term employment.

In addition to creating in-house jobs, Ragfinery provides income for workshop instructors and for local artists who sell their textile creations on consignment at Ragfinery.

The business is projected to provide ten full time equivalent jobs and be self-sustaining within five years, but grant support is needed during the start-up period.

“We could not have launched this “jobs from waste” business without the help of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development,” said Jager.

Information about Ragfinery can be found at www.ragfinery.com. The grant comes from parishioner donations through the national CCHD collection. The collection in 2015 will be held in the Archdiocese of Seattle on the weekend of September 12-13. Info on CCHD (“Working on the Margins”): www.usccb.org/cchd.

Broken Bread

God, whom we meet in bread and wine,
in body broken and blood outpoured,
fill us with your compassion,
that we may hear the cries of the hungry
and reach out to those in need.

Engender in us a thirst for justice,
that the hungry will be satisfied
and the rich sent empty away.

Roll away our apathy
that, with arms outstretched,
we may offer life in place of death
and hope in the face of despair.

Amen.

art by Sharon Rollins

Source: Annabel Shilson-Thomas for Catholic Relief Services' sister agency in England/Wales: www.CAFOD.org.

Lent: Renewing the Face of the Earth

This coming year, Pope Francis will release a much anticipated encyclical on care for creation.

From the Ignatian Solidarity Network:

In preparation for the encyclical and Easter, we are offering a Lenten reflection series.

Authors from around the world offer short reflections from their experiences of caring for creation and the day's readings. These daily reflections examine our faith and how we practice environmental stewardship. From celebrating World Water Day on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, to questions of climate change, we hope this Lenten reflection series will deepen our commitment to our faith and the promotion of justice.

Sign up for daily reflections sent right to your inbox.

You can find info and e-mail sign-up at:
<http://ignatiansolidarity.net/lent>.



Go forth to those who are close to the Lord

Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent (March 20)

Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

If there is one thing I have learned while working in ministry with those who do direct service with people marginalized by me, and you, and our society, it is that the words the Psalmist writes in today's readings are too true: *The Lord is close to the brokenhearted* PS 34:19. The Lord is close to the broken, period. And while it is the temptation of many—myself included—to want to fix what is broken, again and again I witness the grace that occurs when I enter into the brokenness.

This past fall I co-led with Kevin Foy, a Maryknoll associate director for mission education, an Urban Immersion for teachers and staff from a Catholic grade school in what is relatively suburban Seattle. The Immersion brought the group into the heart of downtown Seattle, at Christ Our Hope Parish, whose mission it is to be “a beacon of light where all are welcome...”

The parish is on the ground floor of a zero-to-low-income housing building, operated by Catholic Housing Services of Western Washington. In the midst of the downtown Seattle streets, the immersion began with formation for the group, followed by table fellowship with residents of the building, the Josephinum. We white, suburban, upper middle class folks spread ourselves out among the tables to break bread with the residents—our sisters and brothers who face challenges that seem so distant from ours, like finding stable housing, reliable employment, and community support. The Josephinum provides so much fellowship, and our lunch was filled with conversation and laughter.

After the shared meal we split into groups to encounter the ministries around downtown, and my group visited the Women's Wellness Center (WWC) in the downstairs of the Josephinum. The WWC—supported in part by a local grant from the CRS Rice Bowl Lenten program—is like a day spa but is exclusively for women who are homeless. At the WWC, women have access to showers and laundry, bathrobes and makeup, and are able to rest with a rejuvenating cup of tea. The WWC provides the sort of dignity that seems obvious—ought access to a shower, clean clothes, and safe relaxation be a luxury?

Pope Francis says, we have “to go forth to everyone without exception. ... above all [to] the poor and the sick, those who are usually despised and overlooked” (*Joy of the Gospel*, 48).

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, and it is an honor, always, to witness the healing and transformative power of loving dignity. This Lent, may we go out to meet Christ in those we marginalize, being transformed ourselves in the presence of the brokenhearted while we work to restore human dignity.

Reflection Questions:

Who is on the margins of your community/ies—city, neighborhood, workplace, school, parish, ministry, family, etc.?

What are the boundaries that prevent you from being in authentic relationship—from *loving*—your neighbor on the margins? How might you cross these boundaries?

Source: Kelly Hickman is the Assistant Director at the Missions Office, and can be reached at kelly.hickman@seattlearch.org.

Archbishop Romero, Servant of God

Lord Jesus,
you sent your servant Romero to spread your message
and struggle against the injustices in El Salvador.
Like you, he was a shepherd, a pastor, a brother;
Like you, he was taken from us;
Like you, he remains in our hearts.

Spirit of hope, work within us,
just as you worked in Archbishop Romero,
so that we too may work for justice
and spread the Good News,
by living out the Gospel,
in solidarity with those living in poverty.
Amen.



Source: Jack Tunnecliffe. www.CAFOD.org.uk. Romero was assassinated March 24, 1980, in El Salvador, and recently was declared by the Vatican as a martyr for the faith. The cause for his sainthood is proceeding. Art by Lee Miller.

Local Grants Processes Open

The Missions Office is responsible for the allocation of the following two local grant programs, funded by donations from parishioners. The application process for each program runs during the spring, and recommendations for funding are made to Archbishop Sartain. Decisions are made in June.

Contact us (page two) for timelines and application forms (deadline for Rice Bowl and local CCHD applications is May 8), or visit our website: www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions. A listing of last year's grantees can be viewed at the website. *Please carefully read grant criteria, and consider organizations which might benefit from a potential grant.*



“Working on the Margins”

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development supports projects which seek to change social, political or economic conditions that perpetuate poverty. A project should be directed by low-income leadership and be consistent with the social and moral teachings of the Catholic Church. Source of grant funds is the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Collection in September. Range of *local* grants: \$500 to \$2,000. Deadline: May 8, 2015.



For Lent, For Life: What you give up for Lent changes lives

The **CRS RICE BOWL** program supports projects directly related to alleviation of hunger and poor nutrition. Some grants can be made to address root causes of hunger (e.g., economic development) and all programs' activities should be consistent with social and moral teachings of the Catholic Church. Source of grant funds is 25% of the CRS Rice Bowl donations made during Lent. Deadline: May 8, 2015.

Grant limit: \$500.

World Quiz for Lent

ANSWERS:

1. (c) From Pope Francis' 2015 Lenten Message.
2. (a) One out of every four children is stunted in his or her growth and development due to a lack of nutritious food.
3. (c) The first 1,000 days are vital to a child's development. Proper nutrition ensures a child's survival and can also help a child rise out of poverty, and escape otherwise irreversible conditions like a weakened immune system.¹
4. (b) It costs just 25 cents a day to feed a child porridge, rice or beans—food that will lay the foundation for a healthy, active life.²
5. (d) Why not?
6. No wrong answer!
7. (c) The Lenten sacrifices you put in your CRS Rice Bowl help needy people **around the world** and **in your community**: What you give up for Lent really does change lives! Seventy-five percent of your donation goes to support lifesaving programs in countries around the world, and 25 percent is provided each year in over 220 grants to parish food banks, St. Vincent de Paul conferences, Catholic Community/Catholic Housing Services and other organizations in western Washington.

¹ thousanddays.org/about

² wfp.org/stories/10-hunger-facts-2014

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710 9th Avenue
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Webinars for Social Ministry

Like Wheat in the Field: Growing Your Ministry of Charity and Justice
“The Secrets to Long Term Success: Having the Vision Come to Life!”
Thursday, March 26th at 9:00am (Pacific time)

This series of webinars (**all free**) from JustFaith Ministries is designed to help those interested in developing and enhancing church social ministry including:

- Christians who want to develop a clear understanding of the role they play in social ministry at their church or parish.
- Individuals who want to build a team committed to charity and justice.
- Existing team/committee members who want to plan and implement a successful social ministry project, with an increased circle of people.

To register and find more information about the March 26 webinar, visit <http://justfaith.org>. Also, one can access previously recorded webinars: “5 Ways to Identify Your Gifts, Form a Team and Start a New Project” and “Nourishment for Social Ministry: Staying Connected and Staying Focused.”

If your parish or small faith group is interested in using any of the JustFaith Ministries programs (explanations and sample content at <http://justfaith.org>), please contact us in the Missions Office!

GoodNewsPeople JustFaith JustMatters
EngagingSpirituality JusticeWalking