

Good News from the MISSIONS OFFICE

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

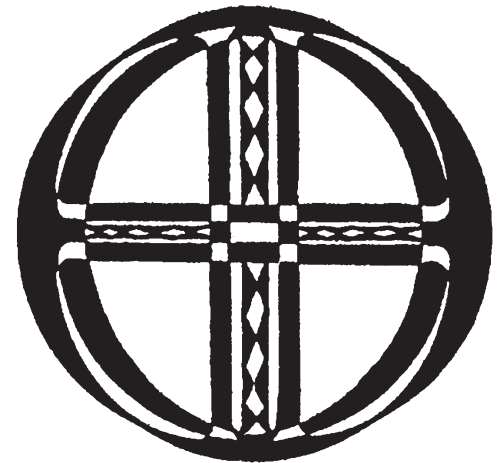
710 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

January 2010

You Keep Us

You keep us waiting.
You, the God of all time,
want us to wait for the right time in which to discover
who we are, where we must go,
who will be with us, and what we must do.

So, thank you...for the waiting time.



You keep us looking.
You, the God of all space,
want us to look in the right and wrong places for signs of hope,
for people who are hopeless,
for visions of a better world which will appear
among the disappointments of the world we know.

So, thank you...for the looking time.



You keep us loving.
You, the God whose name is love,
want us to be like you –
to love the loveless and the unlovely and the unlovable;
to love without jealousy or design or threat;
and, most difficult of all, to love ourselves.

So, thank you...for the loving time.



And in all this, you keep us.
through hard questions with no easy answers;
through failing where we hoped to succeed
and making an impact when we felt we were useless;
through the patience and the dreams and the love of others;
And through Jesus Christ and his Spirit, you keep us.

So, thank you...for the keeping time,

And for now,

And for ever.

Amen.



Source: Various, and in several versions, but all have their origin in the Iona (Scotland) Community, www.iona.org.uk.

Art by Rita Corbin.



Catholic Advocacy Day

Justice and Charity: Compassion & Courage for the Common Good

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

Come to the State Capitol for a program and a legislative briefing before scheduled appointments with your state legislators.

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

9:00am – 3:00pm

AGENDA

9:00 Arrival and check-in at the **Columbia Room**

9:30 Program and legislative briefings on economic justice, housing, health care and the environment

12:15 Lunch* and legislative visits (*Lunch is on your own.

A brown bag lunch is suggested.)

FREE chartered bus for registered participants (departing from Seattle and Tacoma)

To register: Contact Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center: ipjc@ipjc.org or 206.223.1138 **by January 12th.**

Sponsored by: Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center, Washington State Catholic Conference, Catholic Community Services, Archdiocese of Seattle, and Pierce County Deanery.



Fair Trade sales “thank you”!

Missions Office is grateful to all of you who personally and/or through your faith community's fair trade sale participated in the Catholic Relief Services *Work of Human Hands* program. As one parish volunteer/leader said: “In addition to the help that we are now able to give to our [local food bank, from cash proceeds], our purchases of coffee, chocolate, and craft/gift items also helped people in 36 countries to maintain a sustainable living selling their goods at a fair trade price. This is way cool. [Our parish] rocks!”

And remember that fair trade items can be great and just gifts for First Eucharist, Confirmation and birthdays throughout the year!

Info: www.crsfairtrade.org.

Mass in thanksgiving for life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Celebrant: Archbishop Brunett. January 9, Saturday, 5:30pm, St. James Cathedral, Seattle. Reception to follow.



African Connections Conference

Save the date: April 24, 2010, Saturday

For parishes and other communities in the Archdiocese of Seattle involved in partnership in Africa – and for any others simply interested in Africa! www.catholicafricanconnections.org for information as the event's date approaches.



JustFaith Ministries *JustMatters* series offers topic-focused modules in prayer, readings, videos, speakers and dialogue allowing for sustained attention to a specific area of social concern or social ministry (some with special emphasis on Catholic social teaching), culminating in a call to engaged action.

The currently available *JustMatters* modules are Living Solidarity, Crossing Borders, God's Creation Cries for Justice, Prison Reform, New Wineskins, Engaging Our Conflicts and In the Footsteps of the Crucified: Torture is Never Justified. For more information please visit: <http://www.justfaith.org/programs/justmatters.html> or contact the Missions Office.



Justice for Immigrants: A postcard campaign in 2010

The U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign is re-launching a national campaign to support comprehensive immigration reform, educating and engaging Catholics around the country on this critical issue. Information about this effort was sent in December to selected parishes. Please contact us in the Missions Office if interested, or visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org.



Save the Date!

April 15, Thursday evening

At Holy Family parish, Kirkland. A presentation by Jack Jezreel, founder of JustFaith, www.justfaith.org.

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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"Today humanity appears much more interactive than in the past: this shared sense of being close to one another must be transformed into true communion. The development of peoples depends, above all, on a recognition that the human race is a single family working together in true communion, not simply a group of subjects who happen to live side by side." — Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth), Pope Benedict XVI



"I love going to school."

(From a student in Afghanistan, at a school supported with Rice Bowl donations)

"In my home country of Afghanistan, quality schools and education opportunities can be difficult to find. In many areas the nearest school is several miles away, too far for children to safely walk to their classes. Girls often stay at home to help with household chores, and boys work to earn money for their families.

"Catholic Relief Services has been working with local organizations in Afghanistan since 2003 to open community-based schools and provide more education opportunities for boys, girls, and young women. The whole village supports the school by providing a space for the classroom, contributing to the



Students in Afghanistan/Augustinus Wibowo for CRS

teacher's salary, and forming parent teacher associations to support and monitor the quality of the school.

"Parents learn about the importance of education and make a commitment to send their children to class. On the day that the school opened in our village my friends and I were excited to see all of the books, blackboards, globes, and other materials set up in the classroom. Each student received notebooks, pencils, erasers, crayons, and other supplies. I was very excited to see and touch my books and pencils – I never had any before. I love going to school, and I hope one day to become a teacher so I can help other children get a good education."



Through Christ's presence in the Eucharist, we are connected in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. During the season of Lent we will explore this connection through our participation in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl (ORB).

Featured countries:

Lesotho	Nicaragua
Bolivia	Ethiopia
Afghanistan	

Rice Bowl Resources (sent to parishes and schools – and extras available through the Missions Office): The (cardboard) Rice Bowls, with home calendars inserted; Educator Guide; Community and Parish Guide; Poster; donation envelope as requested; (if ordered) placemat customized for Seattle Archdiocesan parishes and schools by Missions Office; CD-ROM with many of the above educational resources and materials.

The **Home Calendar** contains daily reflections and activities designed to enhance your spiritual journey during Lent, including

- personal stories from people who benefit from your support of Catholic Relief Services.
- recipes for simple meatless meals enjoyed by our neighbors overseas.

Community and Parish Guide:

Introduction to Operation Rice Bowl
How to organize Operation Rice Bowl

Activity Suggestions for:

Liturgies, Faith Community, and
School/Religious Education

Resources include:

Bulletin Announcements	Prayer Service
Bulletin Insert	Homily Notes
Prayer Intentions	Evaluation

Educator's Guide

Lesson plans for grades 1-12, on the featured countries, using Catholic Social Teaching principles with focus on education, health, agriculture, water, and microfinance.

Online Resources at <http://orb.crs.org>:

Bonus High School Resources	Placemat (CRS version)
Video Tours	Recipes
Lesson Plans for Grades 1-12	Clip Art
Lenten Prayer Eggs	Evaluation
Stations of the Cross (handout and PowerPoint)	

Visit the ORB website at <http://orb.crs.org> throughout Lent to find other **interactive resources**.

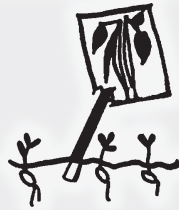
Thank you for making Operation Rice Bowl a part of your Lenten journey!

Note: Resources and materials also available in Spanish

Operation Rice Bowl Weekly Reflections

Sign up to receive by email at <http://orb.crs.org>.

Elderly Sisters' African Garden



Shuffling slowly over to me, Agnes Moyo proudly shows off her garden. I ask her age, and she says she was born in 1920. I do the math and can't help a head-shake. Then she says her sister Hleziphi, who is sitting next to their mud-and-thatch house, was born in 1913 – 96 years old in Zimbabwe, a country where the average life expectancy for women is now just 44 years, down from 63 years back in 1990. Unbelievable.

Agnes also cares for her 7-year-old great-granddaughter Sibonile, who became an orphan when her mother died a few years ago. When I ask why Sibonile doesn't stay with her grandmother instead, Agnes simply says it's better for her great-granddaughter to stay with her.

Unfortunately though, the three don't have anything to eat. Their last meal was a day ago – water and sadza, the traditional porridge made out of cornmeal and eaten across Zimbabwe.

Agnes is hoping to soon have “relish” on the side – the Zimbabwean term for any meat or vegetables that accompany the main dish of sadza. In late May, with help from CRS and a local partner, she planted spinach, rape and tomatoes in an array of cans and a few grain bags. She waters her container garden with the liquid left over from washing plates. If the plants needed more water, they would die. Agnes simply doesn't have the strength to carry more water from the borehole nearby.

Until the vegetables are ready for harvest, the family will continue to rely on handouts from kind neighbors. But in just a few weeks, Agnes, Hleziphi and Sibonile should have plenty of relish to eat for many months to come.

Source: Debbie DeVoe in Catholic Relief Services' The Wooden Bell, published five times a year, free.

Garden at your parish?

The number of **Rice Bowl grants for parish gardens** doubled last year! If your parish or school might be interested in starting a garden (small or big!) that could benefit the hungry, help food banks, and also provide stewardship of your land, please contact us in the Missions Office. Applications for 2010 Rice Bowl grants will be available in late March.

Catechist Life in Myanmar

Even after their monthly stipend of \$10 was stopped, lay evangelizers, or zetaman, in Myanmar's (Burma's) Loikaw diocese are still continuing to serve people in remote areas with the support of the villagers they help. The zetaman had been receiving a monthly stipend of 10,000 kyats (US\$10) from Loikaw diocese when the program started in 1989.

The diocese stopped its financial support in early 2008. These trained lay volunteers evangelize and serve Catholics living in remote hilly areas. They run nursery schools, teach catechism and ethics to older children and youths, minister to mix-marriage couples, care for the sick and elderly, and provide spiritual support to all.

Bishop Sotero Phamo of Loikaw says the diocese provided technical and financial support to the zetaman for many years and now he wants local people to provide financial support. The diocese does not support Religious working in its area either. However, it still provides new zetaman training in basic health care, child psychology, catechetics and leadership. It also runs an annual refresher course that all zetaman can attend.

Before the stipend was cut, villagers provided rice and other supplies like oil and salt, which could bring a zetaman's income to the equivalent of 15,000 kyat a month. Currently, only wealthier villages can match this amount, and poor villages might give much less. Meanwhile, inflation has averaged 27 percent annually for the past three years, and the zetaman are feeling the pinch.

Sabina Mueir, 28, who serves in a village in the Phruso parish area, was able to save some money when the diocese offered the stipend but is struggling now to survive on villagers' support. However, this does not deter her. “Despite the inability to save, I feel my work is improving,” she told UCA News recently.

Agatina, a zetaman in Mese parish, likewise feels “the development of children's education is more important than financial support from the diocese. There has been no adverse effect on me since the diocese stopped financial support. I welcome the bishop's idea to make us all self sufficient.”

Villagers say that although supporting the zetaman is a financial burden, they are happy to do so.

Currently 172 zetaman serve people living in about 190 villages.

Source: CathNews Asia is a daily news service about the Church in Asia. We recommend subscribing to it: www.cathnewsasia.com.

“He invites us all to become advocates for justice.”

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time; January 24, 2010

Reflection by Nathan Wilson

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

While it may be hard to believe, I don't seem to remember all the words preached during my junior high years. I did regularly attend church, and I was paying attention. Of course, I may have been paying a little more attention to who else was there, especially my age range, than to the sermon. But I do recall that between the reading of the scripture and the start of the sermon, my minister would pray the concluding verse of today's psalm: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."

Those familiar words of approval became one of my favorite parts of the worship service. Even if I listened to nothing further, that short prayer helped clarify for me the point of church, and perhaps the point of living in service to God. They remain my favorite verse and desire.

The psalmist announces that nature reveals God's glory and the Torah describes God's will. Nature provides for God's splendor and movement. The Torah renews the soul, instructs the ignorant, brings joy to the heart, enlightens the eye, and guides God's servant.

Nehemiah describes Ezra reading the Torah and the people's response. As they hear the text explained, the people begin weeping, but Nehemiah and Ezra reassure them that the day is a holy one for celebration, not for weeping. "For the joy of the Lord," reads verse 10, "is your strength."

While the text from 1 Corinthians does not immediately focus on God's Word, it does depict a community that the Word has formed as it grapples with diversity. Given what we know about their flare for spiritual flamboyance, the Corinthians probably want the flashier gifts Paul lists last. But the Apostle calls them to hard work and real service, concluding with the promise to show them a "still more excellent way" (v. 31b).

Our text from Luke begins with Jesus filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit, that same powerful presence we saw at his baptism in Jordan and with the Samaritans in the gospel and second reading from Acts two Sundays ago. The Spirit's extraordinary power is manifested in service to those in need. It is not the power of wealth or social standing or government authority; rather, it is the power of the servant, shared with those least likely to wield power in the conventional sense.

Endowed with this Spirit and back in his hometown of Nazareth, Jesus sets the stage for his ministry with a homily that begins with a reading from the prophet Isaiah. By

doing so, he summarizes his own mission and associates himself with important social themes. As the Messiah, Jesus will release victims, restore people to wholeness, and transform societies. In today's vernacular, these are his "goals."

Unfortunately, his audience's initial enthusiasm subsides when they realize that the hometown bunch won't receive preferential treatment from their authoritative resident. Jesus announces that his ministry is for all people, Jew and Gentile, particularly the marginalized but also the mainstream. So his own people reject him for these words, angrily threatening hostility and violence.

For us, us as people with particular passions for justice, it is important that we don't read into this text (or others) more than is there. In quoting from Isaiah, Jesus names particular concerns that will characterize his ministry. And as his followers, we too are called to release, restore, and transform. We are to confront injustice and minister to those who are oppressed. And yes, some will praise us and others will hate us for that.

In naming some groups, though, it is a mistake to think Jesus indicated a lack of concern for other, more "fortunate" groups. Jesus accepts people from all backgrounds among his disciples. He dines with the rich. But when he does, he challenges them both to share their wealth and to alter the status quo for the benefit of those in need. He invites us all to become advocates for justice.

Children's Time: Ask the children what they would do if they were God. You will get some silly answers, but you will also witness the incredible spiritual wisdom residing in our youth. Pointing to today's gospel text, show them what Jesus – God incarnate – chose to do: he fed all the people who were hungry; healed all the people who were sick; and he gave his life, so that everyone can live with God forever. That's what God would – and did – do.

*Wilson pastors First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Shelbyville, IN, consults about conflict and communication, and writes www.nathandaywilson.blogspot.com. This reflection (and "Children's Time" by Marc Miller) are found in *Hunger for the Word: Lectionary Reflections on Food and Justice, Year C*; published for Bread for the World, www.bread.org, by Liturgical Press.*

Christmas Artwork Contest 2010 Holy Childhood Association (HCA)

Christmas Artwork eGreetings



of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during Advent and Christmas 2010.

HCA (one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies) has announced its annual Christmas artwork contest. Students could see their artwork appear as Christmas e-greetings on HCA's website and displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine

Twenty-three different drawings will be chosen as winners and their artwork will be reproduced as 2010 HCA Christmas e-greetings. One grand prize winner will be selected and have his/her artwork reproduced as the official Christmas card of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States. All winners will receive a commemorative plaque. Contest winners will be notified in spring 2010 and announced to Catholic media during Advent 2010.

The contest is open to all Catholic school students currently enrolled in grades K-8. All entries must be postmarked and sent to the National Office **no later than January 31, 2010.**

The Holy Childhood Association (HCA) is a Catholic mission society for children in kindergarten through grade eight. HCA asks Catholic children in the United States and around the world to be missionaries TODAY by sharing their love and their faith in Jesus with children all over the world.

To find out more about HCA and to access a downloadable entry form for the artwork contest please visit:
<http://www.hcakids.org>.

January is **poverty** in America Awareness Month

During January, the Bishops' Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) devotes its efforts to heightening the nation's understanding of the problems of poverty and how, one by one, working together, we can change the picture of poverty to one of hope. Find out the facts about poverty in America. Find resources for parishes and for public and Catholic schools at the virtual **Education Center** at www.povertyusa.org. Consider adding the link to parish and school websites during the month of January.

Empowering Communities, Uprooting Poverty

...is the theme this year for the Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)

Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest: Grades 7-12

The CCHD Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest is an opportunity for schools and parishes to engage young people grades 7-12 in learning about the root causes of poverty; CCHD's support for groups of empowered, low-income people working to address these causes; and Catholic social teaching's call for Catholics to support such efforts through both charitable works and social justice.

All art forms are welcome, such as YouTube videos, music, painting, drama, writing, PowerPoint slideshows, etc.

At the CCHD web site one can find:

- Contest Information and Materials
- Overview for Teachers, Youth Ministers, or Leaders
- Overview for Young People
- Involving the Entire School or Parish
- Art Contest Rules and Entry Form

(Note: our local deadline is March 17, 2010!)

Several dozen pages of **new lesson plans and activities** for use with this contest are posted on the contest website:
<http://www.usccb.org/cchd/contestmaterials.shtml>

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