

Good News *from the* MISSIONS OFFICE

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

710 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

December 2016



in the shadow as well as light

(an Advent prayer)

Loving and gracious God,
When the days grow darker
Casting long, cold shadows
Allowing fear and despair into our lives
Let my light shine brighter.
When the task grows more wearisome
Filling valleys and flattening mountains
Building highways in the desert
Be the strength in my bones.

When I wait on you
And they shake their heads
Saying, "Have you not heard the news?"
Keep in my heart the good news that
makes even the child in the womb leap
with joy:
That you are coming into the world.

May I praise you in shadow as well as light.
May I praise you in winter as well as spring.
May I praise you in silence as well as song.
May I praise you in solitude as well as
companionship.
May I praise you in illness as well as health.

And when the last glowing beam
disappears over the horizon
And darkness shrouds the land
Give me the grace to say to all,
Despair not
Morning is coming.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Amen

Source: Catholic Relief Services:
www.crs.org/get-involved/resource-center.
Art by Julie Lonneman.



en la sombra como en la luz

(una oración de Adviento)

Dios amoroso y misericordioso,
Cuando los días crecen más oscuros
Emitiendo largas y frías sombras
Que permiten la entrada al miedo y la
desesperación en nuestras vidas
Que mi luz brille más resplandeciente.
Cuando la labor se vuelve fastidiosa
Y llena los valles y aplasta las montañas
Construye caminos en el desierto
Se Tú la fuerza en mis huesos.

Cuando te espero
Y ellos sacuden la cabeza
Diciendo, "No has oído la noticia?"
Manten La Buena Nueva en mi corazón
Que hace que hasta un niño en el vientre
materno salte de alegría: Que vienes al mundo.

Te alabaré tanto en la sombra como en la luz.
Puedo alabarte en el invierno así como en la
primavera.
Puedo alabarte en el silencio, así como en la
canción.
Puedo alabarte en la soledad tan bien como en
compañía.
Puedo alabarte en la enfermedad así como en la
salud.

Y cuando el último rayo luminoso desaparezca
por el horizonte
Y la oscuridad envuelva la tierra
Dame la gracia de decirle a todos,
No se desesperen
Ya viene el amanecer.

Ven, Señor Jesús, ven.

Amén



Advent Retreat

“Breath of Life, Light in the Darkness”
Missions Office Advent Day Retreat
Led by: Jeanine Boucher-Colbert
December 8, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Join your Missions Office this December for a free 1-day Advent retreat, “Breath of Life, Light in the Darkness.” Come away rested, inspired and united with God’s one human family. Parish staff and volunteer leaders in parishes are invited to attend as a thank you for your work with us in global solidarity efforts. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Register online at <http://palisadesretreatcenter.org/retreat-details/?retreat=750> or by calling (206) 274-3130.

mca missionary childood association Christmas Artwork Contest

Winners in the 2016-2017 MCA Christmas Artwork Contest will have their artwork appear as e-greetings on the website (MCAKids.org) and displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during Advent 2017 and through the Christmas Season. Information and entry form at MCAKids.org and at OneFamilyInMission.org. Open to young Catholics in grades K-8 in schools or parish religious education programs. Deadline is Friday, January 27, 2017.



Catholic African Connections Conference – April 29, 2017

At St. Thomas More, Lynnwood.
An annual event with keynotes, 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.



Cornerstone Catholic Conference

Save the Date!

The second Cornerstone Catholic Conference, **October 20-21, 2017**, in Tacoma. Bishop Robert Barron, Helen Alvaré and Ralph McCloud will be the keynote speakers, along with the Bishops of Washington State. Updated info at www.thewsc.org.



World Day of Peace Message

...to be issued by Pope Francis on January 1.

Check out now a two-page handout for a summary, prayer, and action ideas on our website

www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions. See more about the message elsewhere in this newsletter.



Missionary Disciples Formation Program March 4-5, 2017

The Maryknoll Missionary Disciples Formation Program in partnership with the Missions Office provides practical tools and strategies for educators and ministers to:

- Identify as missionaries and mission educators
- Discover and relate the Mission Story in Scripture
- Form students/school communities as evangelizing communities rooted in Gospel values
- Engage students in relationship and service to the world around them, locally and globally, in accordance with Church teaching and best practice

Location: Isaac Orr Conference Room, Archdiocese of Seattle. Limited accommodations available for commuters. English and Spanish tracks available. Learn more and register or contact Anna Johnson at 206-322-8831; aclarke@maryknoll.org.



Upcoming events from the Ignatian Spirituality Center

An Advent Evening of Prayer: “Welcoming the Stranger Home”

December 6, 2016 from 7-9pm | St. Joseph Church, Seattle
For more information: <http://www.ignatiancenter.org/programs/advent-evening-of-prayer-2>

A Winter Day of Reflection: An Examen at the Cusp of the Year “A Pilgrim’s Pondering”

December 31, 2016 from 9am-3pm | St. Joseph Parish Center, Seattle. For more information: <http://www.ignatiancenter.org/programs/winter-day-of-reflection>.

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

STAFF:

J.L. Drouhard Director
Kelly Hickman..... Assistant Director
Veronica Fehrenbach Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Ibach CRS Global Solidarity Animator

(206) 382-4580 or (800) 869-7028

E-mail: missions.office@seattlearch.org

Who Gets To Be With God?

Advent reflection for Sunday, December 18, 2016

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

The Psalmist writes, "... who may stand in his holy place? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain." Who gets to be with God? Someone who is without sin, pure of heart, does not seek success or recognition. Someone like St. Teresa of Calcutta, or Pope Francis, or Blessed Oscar Romero. These are the perfect saints and popes and faultless humans that get to be with God. Not ordinary folks like us?

In Matthew's Gospel we find Mary and Joseph, whose plans to be married went



awry due to Mary's unexpected (and miraculous!) pregnancy. Were Mary and Joseph saints and faultless humans? It's easy to think so now, but consider their situation: Mary was a young teenage girl, not yet married, and remarkably, willing to say "yes" to God, so now she is teenage, single and pregnant. Joseph responds in a deeply human way to this jarring change of plans, likely experiencing financial uncertainties, perhaps fears about being a good parent, and safety concerns; not unlike the world in which we live, the Roman Empire was a violent and terror-filled place and a pregnant and single Mary was certainly at risk. To protect her, Joseph decides to leave quietly, essentially doing as decent a thing as a person in that situation might do. But as the story goes, an angel appears to him in a dream and lets him in on the mystery that this baby is part of God's plan. Joseph listens to the angel and goes on to participate in God's self coming into our world in the incarnation.

Mary and Joseph didn't have Christ; they were part of God's becoming human. We do have Christ - he was born, died, and he *is* risen. This is how God is with us today, and this is how we continue to bring Christ into this world, by knowing that we may not be a saint or the pope or faultless, but we are already chosen by God, who is already with us here, now.

Who gets to be with God? We do! We can joyfully say "yes" to God and "no" to fear; we can trust that when our plans go awry God's plan is on track; we can pay attention for the signs and angels in our lives pointing us towards God's messy, loving plan for us.

This reflection first appeared in the Seattle Preparatory High School 2016 Advent Reflection Booklet. Written by John Hickman (Prep '70) who works for Catholic Housing Services, and Kelly Hickman (Prep '01) who is Assistant Director of your Missions Office.

CATHOLICS

CONFRONT

GLOBAL

POVERTY

After-the-election Action Step

Catholics Confront Global Poverty is an initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services. As the official voice of the Catholic Church in the U.S., we call on Catholics and our nation to defend the lives and dignity of people living in poverty worldwide, through advocacy and action.

Stand up for our brothers and sisters living in the world's poorest countries. Unite with Catholics in the U.S. to help shape policy that can change lives. **Sign up** at www.confrontglobalpoverty.org or TEXT 'Global' to 30644. (You'll only receive texts when urgent action is needed.)

Also, on February 7, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. (Pacific) there will be an Advocacy Issues **Briefing Webinar**. The briefing, and advocacy resources to be available, will prepare viewers to take issues of concern to the U.S. Catholic community to our Senators and Representatives in their home district offices during the Congressional Recess week of February 20-24, 2017. Contact us in the Missions Office if wanting to learn more about the webinar.



Read the Good News and other items, on our website.



Women's Justice Circle in action!

CCHD At Work

A number of organizations in this archdiocese receive grants thanks to the September CCHD collection in our parishes. An example, from Sr. Susan Wells, SNJM, follows...

The CCS Farmworker Community Center located in the heart of Skagit Valley, works to empower members of the Farmworker community to be a voice for the community at the local, state and federal level. Through a generous grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), Catholic Community Services is able to provide a

variety of opportunities for existing leaders in the Farmworker/Latino community to strengthen their advocacy skills, and for new leaders to develop their leadership skills. The leadership has organized groups to participate in Catholic Advocacy Days and Latino Advocacy Days in Olympia, and has held Women's Justice Circles, listening sessions and community cultural events. Currently, Farmworker leaders are engaged in advocating for more affordable housing in Skagit County.

Poverty Awareness Month January 2017

Get involved! Learn, pray, and take action with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Sign up now to receive a daily email. . . with facts, tips, and ways you can take action from the [Poverty Awareness Month Calendar](http://bit.ly/USCCBpoverty) at <http://bit.ly/USCCBpoverty> to end poverty in your community! To see what groups in this archdiocese are funded by CCHD for anti-poverty work, visit www.seattlearchdiocese.org/cchd.

PovertyUSA

Visit www.PovertyUSA.org and www.PobrezaUSA.org for education on economic justice (Grades K-12 and adult), resources for prayer and presentations, and more.

"God's heart has a special place for the poor, so much so that he himself 'became poor' (2 Cor8:9). The entire history of our redemption is marked by the presence of the poor. . . ."

— Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel), 197.



World Day of Peace/ Jornada Mundial de La Paz

"The world must be educated to love Peace, to build it up and defend it."

— Pope Paul VI, 1968

The theme of Pope Francis' message for the 2017 World Day of Peace, celebrated on Jan. 1, is **"Non-Violence: a Style of Politics for Peace."** In it, the Holy Father urges us to practice active nonviolence and work to prevent conflict by addressing its causes, building relationships, and facilitating healing and restoration. A two-page handout (bulletin insert!) is available for all to use and share to celebrate the World Day of Peace with Pope Francis at <http://bit.ly/49-peace-day> (includes the pope's message and other resources (English and Spanish)).

Prayer for Peace in Our Communities

Let us pray . . . O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness, no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored.

You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayer, and so we turn to you in our hour of need.

Surrounded by violence and cries for justice, we hear your voice telling us what is required . . . "Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others. Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities.

Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will. Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter and unity.

Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Creating a Culture of Encounter: The People Behind the Statistics

“For me this word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others.”

— Pope Francis



During the 2017 National Migration Week of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) *Creating a Culture of Encounter*, please join us as we deepen our understanding of the reality faced by many Catholic “Dreamers” in our area and across the country.

The evening will begin with opening remarks by Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, followed by a brief video. A conversation will be led by a panel of Catholic “Dreamers” from our area. A Q&A session will lead us into an exploration of how to foster a culture of solidarity and encounter.

Date: Monday, Jan 9th, 2017

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Where: Isaac Orr conference room (archdiocesan offices), 910 Marion St, Seattle

For more information, contact Joe Cotton at joe.cotton@seattlearch.org and 206-382-4847.

Parish Immigration & Refugee Gathering

Interested in activating your parish community in response to local immigrant and refugee needs? Join with parish groups to explore ways of serving our immigrant and refugee neighbors. Network with groups who are already engaging!

Date: Saturday, February 11, 2017

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Seattle University Student Center 160; The LeRoux Room

For more information, contact Joe Cotton at joe.cotton@seattlearch.org and 206-382-4847.

P.S. check out our November newsletter's mention of National Migration Week resources (ideas, prayers, prayers, bulletin notices...), or visit www.usccb.org/mrs and www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

Who Is My Neighbor?

The Face of Poverty in Washington State

A Pastoral letter from the Catholic Bishops of the State of Washington

A year ago, Pope Francis announced a Jubilee Year of Mercy and urged Catholics throughout the world to bring the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy to life and to risk going to those living on the peripheries of our hearts and our society, to women, men and children struggling with the debilitating effects of poverty.

During the Year of Mercy, just ended, the bishops met with those living with material poverty in our state, listening to their struggles and their hopes. They now call all Catholics across the state also to listen with new ears and hearts to families and communities “on the peripheries” and to renew our commitment to respond in prayer, concrete outreach and advocacy.

The pastoral letter, along with a study guide and video, are available at www.thewsc.org. Below are a few quotes from the letter issued on November 17, 2016.

“We are writing this pastoral letter to all people of good faith and to political leaders because we heard...”

“Our listening sessions convinced us that the plight of those living in poverty in our state is reaching crisis proportions.”

“...the poor’ are not strangers. They are our sisters and brothers, members of our human family.”

“...those living in poverty in Washington State truly ‘have much to teach us.”

“The dignity of human life, the common good and solidarity...are the foundation stones of our values and actions as faithful Catholic citizens.”

“Jesus taught us to pray. He also commanded us to act (Matthew 7:21). May we always pray and act in his name to promote the common good for our neighbors, our family — his family.”

Study Guide

The study guide process is designed for three 2-hour sessions. One suggested use is for Lenten small faith groups. The sessions are *The Face of Poverty*, *Responsibility to Our Neighbor*, and *Pray and Act*. This guide includes instructions for facilitation, use of the video, small and large group discussion, resource listings, and prayer. (We offer thanks for the Guide to the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center, a Catholic Campaign for Human Development grantee.)

“The future of humanity does not lie solely in the hands of great leaders, the great powers and the elites. It is fundamentally in the hands of peoples and in their ability to organize. It is in their hands, which can guide with humility and conviction this process of change. I am with you.”

— Pope Francis, Address at the World Meeting of Popular Movements, Bolivia

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710 9th Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104

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Hispanic Ministry and Looking to Lent

During Lent 2017, parishes throughout the archdiocese will participate in the “parish level” *V Encuentro*. Rice Bowl/Plato de Arroz is one faith formation tool for staff and other leadership to answer the call to go to the periphery and live out the spirit of the *V Encuentro* during Lent. Looking for faith formation resources to support your community’s *Encuentro*?

Use *CRS Reflexiones para la Pastoral Juvenil Hispana*, designed specifically for Hispanic youth and young adults during the time of discernment of the *V Encuentro*.



Find more resources tied to the *V Encuentro*’s theme, including a new video about living out the call to encounter as a family, parish and diocesan community at www.crsplatodearroz.org/vencuentro.

mca missionary
childhood
association

New from the Missionary Childhood Association

The **Missio Advent Giving Program** includes prayer services, activities and lessons to encourage a deeper understanding of missionary discipleship. Resources include four weekly lessons for young people divided according to grade level: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, and 6-8.

Scripture-based activities and Advent themes featured in this guide teach the importance of sharing the hope-filled message of Christ’s birth with children in other countries by supporting the chosen project. Visit <https://missio.org/resources>.

“God has no difficulty in being understood by children and children have no trouble in understanding God.” — Pope Francis