

## La razón por la cual

Señor, dador de vida,

Me preguntan porque me tomo el tiempo para rezar;  
y porque empiezo mis oraciones dando gracias  
en un mundo lleno de pena y pérdida,  
lleno de crueldad e injusticia.



A veces yo mismo me hago estas preguntas.  
Pero cuando reviso mi modo de ver las cosas,  
la gratitud inunda y renueva mi corazón.

Porque cuando alguien está hambriento,  
algún otro está compartiendo su pan;  
cuando alguien está sediento,  
algún otro está construyendo un pozo de agua;  
cuando alguien tiene preguntas,  
algún otro está enseñando y dando respuestas;  
cuando alguien está perdido,  
algún otro está buscando.

Porque cuando alguien es maldecido, otro está bendiciendo;  
cuando alguien está enfermo, otro está curando;  
cuando alguien es expulsado de su propio hogar,  
algún otro está haciendo espacio para acoger;  
cuando alguien cae en la desesperación,  
otro está luchando por conservar la esperanza.

Porque cuando los desastres golpean y la gente huye, otros, contra toda lógica,  
corren a extender una mano en medio de los peligros,  
a extender Tu mano salvadora a gente extraña y desconocida.

Porque cuando alguien muere, otro se detiene a rezar una oración,  
y a buscar un hogar para los que quedan huérfanos.

¡Es tan sorprendente como hermoso!

En este mundo en el que el rostro de Dios se oculta tras un velo,  
en medio de calamidades y desastres en los que el instinto  
nos mueve a preocuparnos solo de nuestra propia supervivencia,  
todavía hay muchos que se preocupan verdaderamente por los demás,  
y los milagros de compasión aún abundan.

Por eso, doy gracias y quiero permanecer siempre agradecido.

*Amén*



### Catholic African Connections Conference – April 29, 2017

9am – 3pm at St. Thomas More, Lynnwood. Eleventh annual day-event with presentations, an African Mass, breakout sessions and 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.



### Nine Days of Grace: Novena 2017 March 8-16, 2017

Are you longing to restore your relationships with God and others, and renew hope? Come experience for yourself the surprising graces of “Building Bridges, Building Hope,” a unique nine-day Lenten retreat in the midst of daily life! View the flyer at <http://www.ignatiancenter.org/>. Sponsored by the Ignatian Spirituality Center, Seattle.



### Do You Have The “Social Justice” Gene?

Check out the **Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center’s Justice Cafes for Young Adults.**

March Topic – *Build a Sustainable Future.*  
Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/justicecafe](http://www.facebook.com/groups/justicecafe) to join in the conversation with young adults around the world!



### Catholic Advocacy Day: Thursday, March 16, 2017 “Be a Neighbor & Advocate for All”

Olympia. 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. Details on agenda, registration and transportation will be available at [www.ipjc.org](http://www.ipjc.org).

*“Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the cry of the poor.” — Pope Francis*



### Multimedia Youth Contest

*“Being Neighbors in our Common Home”*

The annual Multimedia Youth Contest is organized by the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). It is a tool for schools and parishes to engage Catholics in grades 7 through 12 in learning about the root causes of U.S. poverty and the Church’s response. Contest materials (English and Spanish) can be found at [www.usccb.org/youthcontest](http://www.usccb.org/youthcontest). Creative work of any medium (e.g. video, song, painting, drama, poetry, etc.) is welcome! The local deadline is **March 17, 2017**. For contest resources and other information in the Archdiocese of Seattle, contact [missions.office@seattlearch.org](mailto:missions.office@seattlearch.org).



### UN WATER 22 MARCH WORLD WATER DAY

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. Suggested resources: [www.unwater.org/worldwaterday](http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday) [www.crs.org/stories/every-day-world-water-day](http://www.crs.org/stories/every-day-world-water-day) <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org>



### Cornerstone Catholic Conference – Save the Date!

The second Cornerstone Catholic Conference, **October 20-21, 2017**, in Tacoma. The bishops of Washington State sponsor Cornerstone Conferences to inspire and educate Catholics and others to continue working together to protect human life: the unborn, individuals who live in poverty or on the margins of society, and people at the end of life. Along with our bishops, Bishop Robert Barron, Helen Alvaré and Ralph McCloud (Catholic Campaign for Human Development) will be the keynote speakers. Updated info can be found at [www.thewssc.org](http://www.thewssc.org).



### Gifts of Faith

A beautiful selection of handcrafted spiritual and Christian gifts, from cross wall art to unique cross necklaces. Gifts of Faith that give back! The next time you are celebrating a loved one who is receiving a sacrament or marking a special occasion or holiday—give a gift of faith (via Catholic Relief Services) and honor your family and friends in a way that helps improve the lives of people in real need. Click on “Gifts of Faith” at [www.serrv.org/crs](http://www.serrv.org/crs). SERRV makes a generous donation to the CRS Fair Trade Fund for each product sold, so the purchases that you make happen count twice! For information on CRS ethical trade (and how your community can be involved): <http://ethicaltrade.crs.org/>.

**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](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions)

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# This is Why

Lord of Life,

They ask me why I stop to pray  
And why I begin my prayers with thanks  
In a world fraught with pain and loss,  
with cruelty and injustice.

Sometimes I ask myself this too.

And then I look again  
And gratitude fills my heart anew.

Because when somebody is hungry,  
another is dividing their portion.

When somebody is thirsty,  
another is digging a well.

When somebody is asking questions,  
another is opening a book  
and teaching answers.

When somebody is lost,  
another is searching.

Because when somebody is cursed,  
another is blessing.

When somebody is sick,  
another is giving healing care.

When somebody has been  
driven from their home,  
another is making room.

When somebody has  
despaired of all hope,  
another struggles on for them.

Because when disaster strikes,  
and people flee,  
somebody else, against all sense,  
is running toward the danger



To reach out a hand,  
to reach out Your saving hand,  
to an absolute stranger.

And when somebody dies,  
somebody else stops to pray,  
and then makes a home for the orphan.

It's as confounding as it is beautiful.

In this darkened world,  
where the face of God is veiled

In the midst of calamities,  
when all instinct speaks of  
self-preservation,

Somebody still cares for the other.

And miracles of compassion abound.

This is why I am thankful.

*Amen*

Source: *This Is Why* (Spanish version  
on the cover of this newsletter),  
available at [www.crs.org/prayers](http://www.crs.org/prayers).

Art by Julie Lonneman.

## Doing Our Part to END HUNGER

Help persuade Congress to make funding decisions that enable people in our country and around the world to feed their families.

### SAMPLE LETTER

[Date]

Dear Sen. \_\_\_\_\_, or Dear Rep. \_\_\_\_\_,

As Congress works on the 2018 budget and spending bills, I ask you to make funding decisions that will put us on track to end hunger by 2030.

I urge you to adequately invest in programs like WIC, SNAP, tax credits for low-income workers, and international development assistance. These programs are helping millions of people escape from hunger.

We have made great progress reducing hunger and poverty in our country and around the world, but our work remains unfinished. My faith calls me to urge you to make public investments that will reduce and perhaps end hunger.

Sincerely,

[your name]  
[your address]  
[city, state, ZIP]

Hand-written letters are still the most effective way to make your voice heard in Washington D.C. And your letter will be amplified by the tens of thousands of letters written by others as part of Bread for the World's 2017 offering of letters. Bulletin inserts – with a sample letter – can be ordered in any quantity you need.

To learn more and order resources, visit [www.bread.org/ol](http://www.bread.org/ol).

### LOCAL Training for Bread for the World's Offering of Letters on March 18, 2017

**Where:** Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Spanaway, WA

**When:** Registration 9:30a.m.

For more information email CRS Parish Ambassador Ramonda Huff at [mondatonny@comcast.net](mailto:mondatonny@comcast.net).

*For the most current version of this sample letter, updated as legislation moves in Congress, visit [www.bread.org/ol](http://www.bread.org/ol).*



**Grounds for Change**  
FAIR TRADE • ORGANIC SHADE GROWN • CARBON FREE

### Use Grounds for Change coffee in your parish/school

A portion of the sale will go to Catholic Relief Services. Simply mention the CRS connection when calling to arrange a parish/school coffee account:

[www.groundsforchange.com](http://www.groundsforchange.com)

or

**(800) 796-6820**

We offer wholesale pricing to churches and schools.

Note:

Grounds for Change, located in Poulsbo WA, is one of CRS' ethical trade partners. Visit: <http://ethicaltrade.crs.org>.

# 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 this year is May 5), or visit our website: [www.seattlearchdiocese.org/missions](http://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 in western Washington: \$500 to \$2,000. Deadline: May 5, 2017.



## What you give up for Lent changes lives

Grants in western Washington from this archdiocese's **CRS RICE BOWL** program supports projects directly related to alleviation of hunger and poor nutrition. Source of grant funds is 25% of the Rice Bowl donations made during Lent. Deadline: May 5, 2017.

Grant limit: \$450.



## Catholic Relief Services Parish Ambassador Corps

Twenty-one parishes across the Archdiocese are participating in the CRS Parish Ambassador Corps, an initiative for parishes to increase global solidarity in their communities. Passionate "ambassador" volunteers are working

to inspire their fellow parishioners, as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, to put the teachings of the Church into practice by energizing their parish communities to have a global impact.

## Could you and your parish be next?

CRS Parish Ambassadors are active parishioners (working as a team of 2-4) with a passion for global solidarity who, with the blessing of their pastoral leader, help strengthen the parish's outreach ministry by organizing global discipleship activities in their parish.

Ambassadors receive training, support and resources throughout the year from CRS and the Missions Office.

## Come and See!

Parishes interested in forming parish volunteers around global solidarity are encouraged to "Come and See" what the CRS Parish Ambassador Corps is all about. We will be having our Spring retreat/training on April 29<sup>th</sup> – consider sending someone from your parish!

For more information and to join us on April 29<sup>th</sup>, please contact us (page two) or visit [www.seattlearchdiocese.org/crs](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/crs).



# agenzia fides

Information service of the Pontifical Mission Societies since 1927

## Chaldean Patriarch: the selective reception of migrants based on religion is "a trap for Christians"

The option foreshadowed by the U.S. President's administration to maintain a "fast track" open for Christian refugees to enter the US, while the doors are closed to citizens of seven countries with a Muslim majority, is "a trap for Christians in the

Middle East". This was underlined by Chaldean Patriarch Louis Raphael I Sako, Primate of the Eastern Catholic Church. "Every reception policy that discriminates the persecuted and suffering on religious grounds", explains Patriarch Louis Raphael, "ultimately harms the Christians of the East, because among other things provides arguments to all propaganda and prejudice that attack native Christian communities of the

Middle East as 'foreign bodies', groups supported and defended by Western powers. These discriminating choices", adds the Patriarch in Iraq, "create and feed tensions with our Muslim fellow citizens. Those who seek help do not need to be divided according to religious labels. And we do not want privileges. This is what the Gospel teaches, and what Pope Francis pointed out, who welcomed refugees in Rome who fled from the Middle East, both Christians and Muslims without distinction."

Source: Agenzia Fides, the Vatican's news service for the Pontifical Mission Societies



# QUIZ

## 1. Fill in the blanks:

For I was hungry and you gave me \_\_\_\_\_, I was thirsty and you gave me \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ and you welcomed me, naked and you \_\_\_\_\_ me, \_\_\_\_\_ and you cared for me, in prison and you \_\_\_\_\_ me." (Check out Matthew 25:35–36 if you need a little help!)

## 2. Which of the following are important parts of Catholic social teaching? (Circle all that apply!)

- Caring for the poor
- Making a lot of money
- Having a fancy car
- Protecting human life in all forms

## 3. Pope Francis wrote an encyclical—a letter to the Church—called *Laudato Si'*, in which he asked all people to work hard to protect what?

- Their own houses
- The environment—our common home
- Our right to use the internet
- Religious buildings around the world

## 4. During what season of the Church year are we called to pray, fast and give?

- Advent
- Christmas
- Easter
- Lent

## 5. Why do we fast during Lent?

- To remember that everything is a gift from God—and that ultimately we depend on God
- To put aside our own money and resources for those in need
- To be more open to receiving the grace of God in our lives, especially through the sacraments
- All of the above

## 6. Who said the following?

*"Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ."*

- Saint John Paul II
- Saint Teresa of Calcutta
- Pope Francis
- Archbishop Sartain

## 7. Through Catholic Relief Services, Catholics in the United States are helping those who are poor and suffering in more than \_\_\_\_\_ countries. (Choose the closest answer!)

- 40
- 60
- 80
- 100

## 8. We pray, fast and give through CRS Rice Bowl so that we can help our brothers and sisters \_\_\_\_\_.

- Around the world
- In our own community
- Both (a) and (b)

## 9. In 2016, \_\_\_\_\_ Rice Bowl grants were made to food banks and other hunger fighting organizations in western Washington.

- 169
- 269
- 10

## 10. Along with the Gospel's call to pray, fast and give, what other action in faith can we offer?

- Learn how to advocate at [www.confrofrontglobalpoverty.org](http://www.confrofrontglobalpoverty.org).
- Learn about our neighbors at [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org).
- Learn about CRS resources beyond the Lenten season at <http://resources.crs.org>.
- Any or all of the above!

## ANSWERS

1. Matthew 25:35–36: "For I was hungry and you gave me **food**, I was thirsty and you gave me **drink**, a **stranger** and you welcomed me, naked and you **clothed** me, **ill** and you cared for me, in prison and you **visited** me."

2. (a) **The Preferential Option for the Poor** is an important principle of Catholic social teaching. Jesus tells us to care for those who are most in need in the world. (d) **The Sacredness and Dignity of the Human Person** is the foundational principle of Catholic social teaching, reminding us that, being made in the image and likeness of God, we each have a special value and purpose.

3. (b) Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, was released in June 2015 and discussed our Christian responsibility to protect **the environment—our common home!**

4. (d) Prayer, fasting and giving are the three spiritual pillars of **Lent**.

5. (d) The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops details **several reasons** to fast during Lent. It is particularly important to remember the poor during our Lenten fast, to reflect on what we can give up in order to lift up those who are most in need. In fact, Isaiah 58:6–7 reflects this: "Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose: [...] sharing your bread with the hungry?"

6. (c) Quote cited from **Pope Francis'** 2016 Lenten Message.

7. (d) CRS is motivated by the example of Jesus Christ to assist poor and suffering people in more than **100 countries** on the basis of need, without regard to race, religion or nationality.

8. (c) The Lenten sacrifices you put in your CRS Rice Bowl help those in **need around the world and in your community**: What you give up for Lent really does change lives! 75 percent of your donation goes to support lifesaving programs in countries around the world, and 25 percent helps fund homelessness and hunger alleviation projects in this archdiocese.

9. (b) In 2016, Archbishop Sartain through your Missions Office awarded a record **269 Rice Bowl grants!** Visit our website, [www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ricebowl](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ricebowl), for a full listing of the grants made, and to view the grant application materials.

10. (d) Why not?!

This quiz is adapted from Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl program. It can be found online, in its original form in English and Spanish, along with many other activities, at [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org) and [www.crsplatodearroz.org](http://www.crsplatodearroz.org). The above version can be found at: [www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ricebowl](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ricebowl).

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# MISSIONS OFFICE

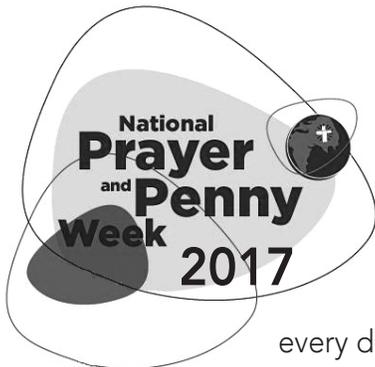
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Good News from the Missions Office

March 2017 – Page Six



God, our Father,  
Help us to be your witnesses and  
disciples and share the Good News  
of the Gospel with our lives.

Jesus, our Lord,  
You teach us that all life is sacred.

Strengthen us to witness  
every day to Your love with our words,  
actions and sacrifices.

Holy Spirit, Giver of Life,  
as missionary disciples you invite us to share the Good News,  
cooperating with you and one another to walk  
with our brothers and sisters  
who live in poverty, loneliness, and despair.

In a special way we ask You to bless all the missionaries  
sharing Your love.

We send this prayer across the world in Jesus' name.

*Amen.*

This year, the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) celebrates *National Prayer and Penny Week* from March 19-24. This program is a prayer movement that serves as MCA's Lenten prayer and sacrificial program for Grades K-8. MCA has made changes which allow groups to **personally choose** a mission project and the people it serves to pray for and support as part of the program via [www.missio.org/resources](http://www.missio.org/resources).

All contributions collected through this program may be sent directly to the project you have chosen to support online via [www.missio.org/resources](http://www.missio.org/resources). No more writing checks! And it allows you to send links to families and friends in support of your Prayer and Penny Week project.

Visit [www.missio.org/resources](http://www.missio.org/resources) for additional Lenten downloadable resources (available in English and Spanish), including:  
Lent 2017 Calendar  
Lenten Prayer Service (grades 6-8)  
Mission Together Lenten Liturgy  
Stations of the Cross for Teens