Mother Of All Nations

Risen Lord,

Before your death, you presented to
John your mother
And to Mary, her son.
And so we inherit this cherished honor:
That all may know your mother as their own.

Through ages past, we have known her consolation:
Mother of all nations
Comforter in times of affliction
Light in times of darkness
Companion in times of sorrow
Intercessor in times of prayer

In a world touched by sorrow
By disasters and hunger, war and deprivation
Disease and drought, persecution and injustice
What joy to know that it is also touched by one such as she
Reflecting God’s mercy to all
That each of us,
rich or poor
broken or whole,
May know the blessing of a mother’s love

Mother of all nations, pray for us.
Amen

Madre De Todas Las Naciones

Señor resucitado,

Antes de tu muerte, le presentaste tu madre a Juan y a María, su hijo.
Y así heredamos este honor preciado:
que todos puedan conocer a tu madre como propia.

A través de las épocas pasadas, hemos conocido su consuelo:
madre de todas las naciones,
consoladora en momentos de aflicción,
luz en tiempos de oscuridad,
compañera en momentos de tristeza,
intercesora en momentos de oración.

En un mundo conmovido por la tristeza,
por desastres y hambre, guerra y privaciones,
derrentación y sequía,
persecución e injusticia,
qué alegría es saber que también es conmovido por alguien como ella
reflejando la misericordia de Dios para todos,
para que cada uno de nosotros,
rico o pobre,
quebrantado o entero,
pueda conocer la bendición del amor de una madre.

Madre de todas las naciones,
ruega por nosotros.
Amen
God’s love is a gift we are called to share with the world! As missionary disciples of Jesus we are invited to share and receive God’s love with those beyond our immediate experience, including those who are excluded, ignored, and rejected. By moving beyond our comfort zone and encountering and accompanying those on the periphery, we continue Jesus’ mission and are mutually transformed by the joy of the Gospel. Maryknoll Mission Education’s Discover Your Neighbor program highlights Going Forth in the current issue, available for FREE at discoveryournighbor.org. Available for Catholic youth in grades 1-8. Sign up today!

Vacation Bible School?

Will your parish this summer be using (Our Sunday Visitor) Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus?

Be sure to include the supplementary resources from Catholic Relief Services: Connecting Kids to Justice (under the “Tools” section at http://vbs.osv.com).

If your parish will be using this particular VBS program, please let us in Missions Office know of that, and if you need any additional resources!

Care for the Earth, Care for the Poor: A Laudato Si’ Summit

Saturday, June 2nd at Seattle University’s Lemieux Conference Room, 10:00am – 3:00pm

This will be a day for Catholics to come together in prayer, learning and action around the Pope’s encyclical, Laudato Si’, which invites everyone (all people of goodwill!) to Share the Journey in Care for the Earth and Care for the Poor. Keynotes include Dan Misleh (Executive Director, Catholic Climate Covenant) and Caroline Brennan (Global Humanitarian Response Team, Catholic Relief Services). Special blessing offered by the Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle, J. Peter Sartain. Consider joining or sending a delegation from your parish or school community to join in this Archdiocesan effort!

This is a free event and lunch will be provided. For more information and to register, visit www.ipjc.org.

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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

Missionary Discipleship Institute (MDI) for 7th Grade

The Missionary Discipleship Institute (MDI) consists of three units—aligned with our Archdiocesan Religion Standards—to provide a framework for students to encounter the lives of their neighbors on the margins and the injustices that they face; reflect on how the Church responds in love and the disturbance this creates in our own sense of discipleship; and discern, develop, and carry out a missionary response.

Throughout the year, students engage in a local immersion experience, research issues currently prevalent in our world, and are empowered to take hopeful Christian action.

A commitment to these three units can serve as the core 7th grade religion curriculum for the school year.

Click here to register your class for the MDI or visit https://tinyurl.com/MDI1819.

Questions? Contact either Kelly Hickman (email below) or Anna Johnson (aclarke@maryknoll.org) of Maryknoll.

Share the Journey Resources for Teachers and Catechists

Good News from the Missions Office

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Exploring Migration Helps Archdiocese of Seattle ‘Share the Journey’

You may have heard the term “Perfect Storm.” Loosely defined, it describes many things coming together resulting in something big or profound. The phrase was first used to describe weather that comes together to create a huge storm – the classic Nor’easter. Sometimes the term goes beyond weather to more intangible subjects.

Recently our “Perfect Storm” in the Seattle Catholic community – and certainly other faith traditions – has been immigration. It started building over a year ago with an initial Immigration Summit at Seattle University. A year later, the storm continued to build with a second Summit, a well-supported archdiocesan outreach to the immigrant community, the involvement of all three Catholic bishops in the archdiocese, and a variety of parish connections all under the auspices of Pope Francis’ “Share the Journey” initiative.

At the heart of our Seattle effort are some well-recognized Catholic organizations – big and small – including the Archdiocese, Catholic Community Services, Seattle University, the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center, St. James Cathedral’s Immigrant Assistance program and JustFaith Ministries with their new Exploring Migration program. In March this group staged their second Immigration Summit with 200 people from all over the Archdiocese. Attendees came to learn more, to connect with others involved in this issue and to discern next steps to advance the Conference theme – “My Liberation is Bound Up with Yours.”

Two of the participating parishes at the summit, St. Michael’s in Olympia and St. Joseph’s in Seattle, were there with participants in JustFaith Ministries’ Exploring Migration program. I would have to say that one of the good feelings that came from the summit experience was the feeling that I was connected to a larger Church that cared and wanted to stand in solidarity with immigrants and refugees.

The summit added to my personal understanding of what migration is about and gave us new energy and resources to continue our work. It is so clear to me how JustFaith Ministries’ program, Exploring Migration, works with these larger programs like the Summit and Share the Journey to build energy, enthusiasm, and action at the parish level. Each effort – big and small – has its place. Each is complementary to the other. All are important.

In just one example, a resource shared at the Summit was a summary of pastoral listening sessions with Hispanic Catholics who identified their needs in the current immigration crisis. These were conducted during the summer of 2017 [with assistance of a U.S. Bishops’ Catholic Campaign for Human Development grant]. The needs most mentioned were: Legal Aid, Mental Health Services for Children, Addressing Racism and Nationalism among White Catholics, and more visible solidarity in the Catholic Church in Western Washington. This information was important to our process at the parish level. I was pleased to see how these needs where addressed in the Exploring Migration program and how they were also becoming part of our developing agenda in the parish.

With gratitude and surprise, I find myself in this “Perfect Storm” of Immigration. I feel the collective energy of the Church standing up to this crisis through the Share the Journey initiative. I feel the importance of my own work facilitating Exploring Migration giving life and energy to that effort and the cause of immigration in my Parish. It may be that the impact of an 8-week program is small in comparison to an international initiative led by the Pope, but I think of Exploring Migration as a small contributing step in the “Perfect Storm” of big change.

Above programs with their resources can be found at https://justfaith.org/exploring-migration-faith-journey; www.seattlearchdiocese.org/stj and www.sharejourney.org. We at the Missions Office will be glad to assist any parish wanting to register for the “Exploring Migration” program.

Cultivating Creativity in Social Justice Ministry: “Love requires a concrete, creative response”

The 2018 Social Action Summer Institute is inspired by a Tweet from Pope Francis: “Love requires a creative, concrete response.” Social justice ministry is dedicated to serving those individuals on the margins of society and within our Church, yet the way in which we minister must evolve. Come explore creative ways to achieve our social mission.

July 15-19, 2019 at Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, PA

Visit www.catholicroundtable.org for complete details and to register.
Pope Francis On Holiness
A Homily From Africa, By Peter Henriot, SJ.

On a recent trip to visit a school project in Malawi, Fr. Henriot, a Jesuit ministering in Tacoma, spoke at a Mass about the Pope’s recent message "on the call to holiness in today’s world.

I want to say a few words about the wonderful document you may have heard about, the exhortation that Pope Francis published recently, Gaudete et Exsultate – Rejoice and Be Glad! It’s a teaching message of great importance for all of us.

I really encourage you to get a copy, download it, or to read some of the things written about it, and to pray over its message. It is a document that explains and encourages holiness for all of us – not just for a few “saints” or very holy persons! Let me mention two central messages that will give you an idea of how simple but challenging this exhortation is: 1) what promotes holiness, and 2) what are signs of holiness.

Francis says that what it means to be a good person, what promotes holiness, is very clear in the Gospel: practice the Beatitudes. Because there Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy. You don’t have to be a monk, or a person who prays day and night, practices great penances, goes on pilgrimages, etc. No, the Beatitudes are the guides for promoting genuine holiness. Let me just briefly summarize some key points of living the beatitudes very practically as Francis explains.

Blessed are the poor in spirit – not seeking a lot of material riches, not ignoring love and kindness
Blessed are the meek – not always demanding my own way, being humble by being honest
Blessed are those who mourn – being aware, sensitive to others’ needs all around me
Blessed who those who hunger and thirst for justice – reject corruption personally and throw out those who are corrupt in government and business
Blessed are the merciful – forgiving, not seeking revenge or holding grudges
Blessed are the pure of heart – loving God and neighbor above all else
Blessed are peacemakers – promoters of harmony, no gossiping
Blessed are those persecuted for sake of goodness – a sign of putting God first

Moreover, Francis reminds us of the clear lesson in Matthew 25: holiness is not about swooning in mystic rapture. No, it is shown by our serving Jesus by serving those in need! Remember those very challenging words of Matthew 25: “As long as you served the least among you –the hungry, sick, naked, homeless, prisoners – you served me!”

Yes, promotion of holiness can become very practical, even if very demanding. Francis puts it simply for us!

Well, what would be signs of holiness? How would we spot a holy person, a saint, in our midst? How would I know if I am holy in the Lord’s eyes? Again, Francis is very simple, plain. We’re not called to be “holy-holy,” separated from the real world of everyday living. I summarize the five signs that Francis offers:

• Perseverance, patience, meekness – enduring struggles, with God’s help, to do what is right and proper in the face of challenges;
• Joy and sense of humor – yes, rejoice in the Lord and his goodness, show that I experience God’s love, forgiveness, kindness. Saints aren’t people of stern, solemn faces (can’t convert others by looking like you are coming from a funeral);
• Boldness and passion – willing to break out of what is accepted though that might hurt my reputation; feel strongly about good things;
• In community – doing things together with others; remember Jesus was not a loner, but brought people (good and not so good!) to be with him;
• In constant prayer – need not be lengthy or of great emotion; small moments of thanks, of asking for self and others; nourished by scripture; much silence and not so many words.

Suggestions: take a moment of prayerful reflection on these two questions:

What do I need to do to be more believing, more faithful, more prayerful, more holy, as Francis guides?

What might I do this week to help someone close to me – family, neighbor, work, school – to be more holy, just in the simple ways Francis talks about?

CRS Parish Ambassador Corps Grows!

This month we welcome new ambassadors Erin Pedras, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Seattle; Mary Chris Goldstein, Immaculate Conception & Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parishes in Everett; and Kristen Federico, Holy Innocents in Duvall.

If you are interested in being a Catholic Relief Services ambassador in your parish, please visit www.seattlearchdiocese.org/crs, or contact us in the Missions Office.
A Prayer to Black Madonna

O Mother of the darkness
Of the deep rich soil
That brings forth new growth:
Bless all your children
Struggling for new ways
Of being community for each other.

O Mother of the darkness
Of the infinite night sky
That graces us with endless stars,
Bless all your children
Looking for hope and light
To pierce the present shadows.

O Mother of the darkness,
Black Madonna, Madre Negra,
Czarna Matka, who calls everyone
In the human community “my child,”
Bless us all and bring us all
Gift and grace as we reach out
For each others’ hands.

Amen.
— Jane Deren, Ph.D.

The Missionary Church Is One Of Conversion, Constantly

This April, a meeting of Religious Congregations and projects with a Pan-Amazon view met in the diocese of Tabatinga, Brazil, with nearly 100 participants representing 30 different religious communities.

A main point of the meeting was inter-congregational and inter-institutional work, presently being considered in various parts of the Amazon region. The meeting created great hopes for building a Church with an Amazon and Indigenous face in view of the Pan-Amazon Synod in the region. Those present expressed the necessity to “enter a dynamic constant of profound conversion,” so that the Amazon region and its people may capture the hearts of missionaries.

As the meeting’s Final Message underlines, new paths for the ‘Church and Integral Ecology’ – the theme of the upcoming Synod – “will be discovered where there is a process of listening.”
Pope Francis on the Eucharist

“We must not forget that we celebrate the Eucharist in order to become Eucharistic men and women. What does this mean? It means allowing Christ to act within our deeds: that his thoughts may be our thoughts, his feelings our own, his choices our choices too... [P]artaking in the Eucharist commits us to others, especially the poor, teaching us to pass from the flesh of Christ to the flesh of our brothers and sisters, in whom he waits to be recognized, served, honored and loved by us (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1397).”

— Pope Francis, General Audience, Apr. 4, 2018

Art by Julie Lonneman.