

Good News *from the* MISSIONS OFFICE

Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

710 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Summer 2016

The following prayer is excerpted from a faith-sharing resource for small groups from Catholic Relief Services and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. www.crs.org/resource-center/year-mercy-resources. The resource is designed to inform, inspire and prepare individuals and communities to show Christ's compassionate love in public life through legislative advocacy. (Also, see related items elsewhere in this issue). Art by Julie Lonneman.

May I Speak Out

Suggested Scripture: Luke 1:46–55; Jeremiah 1: 6–9;
Mark 1: 2–3, 14.



Lord of Light, Lord of Hope,
Your prophet cried, "Shout out, do not hold back!
Raise your voice like a trumpet."

Yet I have seen your people suffer
And remained silent too long.
Help me to speak out.

When human dignity is not honored: May I speak out.

When the poor are oppressed: May I speak out.

When injustice reigns: May I speak out.

When rights are not respected: May I speak out.

When the law is unjust: May I speak out.

When violence is normalized: May I speak out.

When human life is cheapened: May I speak out.

When other voices are silenced: May I speak out.

When I am most afraid to speak out: May I speak out nonetheless.

Lord, give me the courage to be your microphone
That my words may ring as clearly as yours,
Still the oppressor's sword,
And soften the hearts of the mighty.

Even now I shudder at the thought of speaking.

But you have promised that those who trust in you
will not be put to shame.

And to remain silent when I have seen what there
is to see grows more unthinkable every day.

Now is a time for prayer, Lord.

Soon it will be a time for speaking.

May I speak out.

Amen



It's Our World-Resources for Missionary Discipleship

Visit <http://missio.org/resources> for featured downloadable resources currently available, including:

- Laudato Si' for young people and children
- Works of Mercy for Kids (available in English and Spanish)



2016 Social Action Summer Institute

The 30th annual Social Action Summer Institute (SASI) July 17-21 at St. Xavier University, Chicago. The five-day national conference, "Who is my Neighbor? Discipleship in the Year of Mercy" focuses on racism, gun violence, and other themes from Catholic Social Teaching. This five-day program offers first-time participants grounding in Catholic social teaching, biblical theology, and the spirituality of social justice. For schedule details and to register visit: <http://catholicroundtable.org>.



My Fair Wedding

The sacrament of marriage is "directed toward the salvation of others; if [it] contribute(s) as well to personal salvation, it is through service to others that [it does] so." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1534)

The sacrament of marriage calls us to serve others. We can live out this important dimension of our faith by supporting companies that respect people and the environment. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) offers some practical ideas for incorporating fair trade into wedding celebrations: <http://crsfairtrade.org/wedding>.



Intentional Service!

Jesuit Volunteer EnCorps (JV EnCorps), a program of JVC Northwest, facilitates transformative opportunities for intentional service, community and spiritual formation for older adults committed to social and ecological justice. During their ten months of part-time volunteer service, participants ages 50 and older meet together regularly in community to deepen their spirituality and explore the values of simple living and social & ecological justice. Priority application deadline: August 15th. For more information, call 206-305-8911, email JVSEattle@jvcnorthwest.org, or visit <http://jvencorps.org> to apply.

Missionary Discipleship Institute (MDI) for 7th Grade

The Missionary Discipleship Institute (MDI) for seventh grade is a year-long 3-part faith and outreach experience which provides a framework for students to *encounter* the lives of their neighbors on the margins and gain awareness of injustices that they face; reflect on how the Church is responding in love and the *disturbance* this creates in our own sense of discipleship; and discern, develop, and execute a missionary service *response*. Throughout the year, students will engage in a local immersion experience, research issues currently prevalent in our world, and be empowered to take hopeful Christian action. They will document the process on video, and at the end of the year, share their missionary discipleship videos with other schools throughout the Archdiocese.

[Click here to register](#) your class for the MDI or visit www.ocsw.org.

Questions? Contact either Kelly Hickman ([email](mailto:kellyhickman@maryknoll.org) below) or Anna Clarke (acl Clarke@maryknoll.org) of Maryknoll.



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 can be found at www.usccb.org/youthcontest. Creative work of any medium (e.g. video, song, painting, drama, poetry, etc.) is welcome! For **local deadline** and other information in the Archdiocese of Seattle, contact missions.office@seattlearch.org.



Nonviolence and Peace

Save the date: Saturday, September 24. A day event to be held in the greater Seattle area, focusing in part on the recent Vatican-sponsored conference on nonviolence and

Just Peace. More information to come, or contact the Missions Office for ongoing updates.

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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

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CCHD And A Personal God Sighting

The Community Awareness Reaching Empowerment (CARE) Committee is run by people living in poverty who are involved in the ministry of *Friends of the Carpenter*. “FofC”, based in Vancouver, WA, is a faith-based day shelter that provides safety and a sense of purpose to members of its community. In their words:

We make wood devotional items at our shelter, but our main product is relationships. We are changing lives with love – helping those who have encountered many difficulties in life see themselves as people of worth and take that next step in bringing their lives back on track.. The CARE Committee organizes field trips and events for participants and provides our staff and Board with feedback on the



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effectiveness of our programs. CARE was started in 2008 and is a collaboration of participants, volunteers, board and staff members.

Decisions are made solely by participants and volunteers on the committee; staff members answer questions and provide insight to policies. “Of the people, by the people, for the people.”

“As chair, from the beginning the CARE Committee has given me structure and the ability to grow as a person.—Lynnette

“There are many reasons I say that Friends of the Carpenter and CARE are my personal God sighting. It is mainly due to

the way they help everyone of us feel just a little bit safer, happier and respected when we are a part of it,” —Jennifer

“Each and every member of CARE is a Friend of the Carpenter, and they help by providing vitally important input and services to our ministry. They keep God’s love and grace flowing throughout our Friendship Center and into the community beyond. Thanks for your support of this powerful and life-giving part of Friends of the Carpenter.” —Tom Iberle

The work of the CARE Committee is funded by a grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). The annual CCHD collection will be held in parishes on the weekend of September 17/18. More information on the many grants in western Washington (and throughout the U.S.) can be found at www.seattlearchdiocese.org/cchd.

Join the Corps: Catholic Relief Services Parish Ambassador Corps

Last year, the Missions Office joined with Catholic Relief Services on a new initiative called the *Parish Ambassador Corps (PAC)*. The PAC is a corps of volunteers made up of local Catholics who are passionate about global solidarity and want to take action. These CRS ambassadors receive special formation on the spiritual roots of our call to care for those in need during two retreats/trainings. Participants then become

part of a nationwide CRS Ambassador community, sharing encouragement, prayer and resources. They also receive webinar trainings and ongoing support from the Missions Office and regional CRS staff.

Trained and equipped with resources, Ambassadors commit to helping support global solidarity efforts in their parishes. They help with Rice Bowl as well as two other initiatives over the course of the year. The possibilities are many and can enhance a parish’s plans and charism. The twelve parishes that participated in the prototype year went forth with Fair Trade sales, prayer walks, emergency relief updates, lesson plans in the schools,

youth groups participating in CRS Food Fast, companion guides for bible camps, speakers on Rice Bowl and the European refugee crisis, presentations at RCIC and Faith Formation classes, Stations of the Cross, Fish Fries, and much, much more! There are so many resources available that amplify the things parishes are already doing... all it takes is someone who knows how to access them and has the zeal to bring them to life!

Could you use ambassadors in your parish? Are you a parishioner who is committed to inspiring others, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to put the teachings of the Church into practice on a global level? There are already six new parishes joining us for the pilot year this fall. Could you and your parish be next?

For more information, contact Jennifer at: Jennifer.Ibach@seattlearch.org.



Read the Good News (and other items!) on our website.



On World Mission Sunday in late October, parishes throughout the world celebrate missionary discipleship and raise funds for over

1,000 dioceses not yet able to support their schools, parish ministries, clinics and formation programs for catechists, Sisters and priests (visit www.iamamissionary.org, a website of your Pontifical Mission Societies). The Church in mission is often a leading voice for mercy and solidarity. There are many stories shared every day by our international mission news agency, FIDES. A recent example:

MYANMAR - Communicating Mercy Means Listening To Our People

“We need to listen to our people in Myanmar: Muslims, the Rohingya, the Ma Ba Tha, the National League for Democracy, civil society, even those who are against democracy. Listening is the first task of communication: it serves to build bridges of healing, to break down the walls of misunderstanding, to include the excluded,” said the Archbishop of Yangon, Cardinal Charles Maung Bo.

In the message to an assembly of those involved in Church communications, Cardinal Bo recalled: “Conflicts continue to rage in the land of the Shan people, the Kachin and the Karen: we need to listen to the root causes of these conflicts, we need to build bridges among cultures, we need to bring mercy to refugee camps, we need to bring justice in the jade mines, we must bring peace to areas where there is drug trade. We need to listen to the victims but also the perpetrators of crimes against humanity and communicate the message of hope. In this jubilee year the message of mercy should proceed next to the message of peace.”

“Over the past six decades,” said the Cardinal, “communications have been suppressed, and Myanmar has sunk into a tunnel of culture of silence. The dawn of democracy is a blessing, which brings great obligations also for the Catholic Church, the only organization spread across the nation, from north to south. This obligation is to bring mercy, proclaim mercy”; especially “to refugees, migrants, victims of trafficking and drugs, victims of ethnic violence and poverty.” Once bound to silence, today the Church brings “the eloquence of mercy through communication”, he concluded.



An Islamic Prayer for Peace

In the name of Allah, The beneficent, the merciful:

Praise be to the Lord of the Universe Who has created us and Made us into tribes and nations, That we may know each other, Not that we may despise each other.

If the enemy incline towards peace, Do thou also incline towards peace, And trust in God, for the Lord is one That hears and knows all things.

And the servants of God Most Gracious Are those who walk On the Earth in humility, And when we address them, we say “Peace.”

Amen.

Source: United Nations; art by Lee Miller.



Grants In 2016

The grants process is completed, using the 25% share of CRS Rice Bowl donations from last Lent. Over \$450,000 was donated by students, parishioners, and other people of good will in western Washington! And so, over 260 food-security grants (a new record amount) have been awarded to parishes, schools, St. Vincent de Paul conferences, Catholic Community Services/Catholic Housing Services and other organizations in our archdiocesan area. Information on the grant program and a list of the grantees are posted at www.seattlarchdiocese.org/ricebowl.

“The biblical call to charity, justice and peace claims not only each believer, but each community.” –Communities of Salt and Light. (U.S. bishops’ statement on parish social ministry)

Ways You Can Live Mercy through Advocacy

Pope Francis has declared an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, ending on November 20, 2016. It is a time for the Church to reflect more intentionally on God's mercy and on how we, as a people of faith, can extend God's merciful and compassionate love to others.

Pope Francis has asked that we spend time throughout this year living out the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. An area that we might not typically think is an opportunity to show mercy to others is participation in political life. As U.S. citizens, we have enormous power to impact the lives of millions of our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

Our democracy affords us the power to ask our elected officials to enact policies that help ensure that the hungry have food, the stranger is welcomed, the sick are cared for, and other human needs are met. The following action list is excerpted from an easy-to-use faith-sharing resource for small groups from Catholic Relief Services and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This resource is designed to inform, inspire and prepare individuals and communities to show Christ's compassionate love in public life through legislative advocacy. www.crs.org/resource-center/jubilee-year-mercy-resources

As An Individual:

- Start with **prayer**. When you read the world news, offer the stories and people you read about to God in your daily prayer.
- Discover *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States* that provides a framework for Catholics in the U.S.. Visit www.faithfulcitizenship.org.
- **Stay informed** about the issues our Church is working on that impact our global family. Bookmark the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) website and check in weekly to see what's in the spotlight. www.usccb.org.
- Join **Catholics Confront Global Poverty**, a joint initiative of the USCCB and Catholic Relief Services, to receive updates and information on how you can confront global poverty through the power of your voice! Text "CCGP" to 30644 or visit www.confrontglobalpoverty.org to sign up.
- Get to **know your members of Congress**. Find out more about the issues they're passionate about, the congressional committees they serve on, and local events you can attend, by visiting their websites or signing up to receive their e-newsletters. Find your members of Congress at senate.gov and house.gov.

As A Parishioner:

Engage Your Faith Community.

1. Meet with your parish leadership for approval and brainstorm ideas to help your community learn more about advocacy and how it connects with our faith.
2. Share information from the USCCB and CRS about current legislative advocacy issues in the bulletin.
3. Host an informational gathering for people to learn about advocacy and how it connects with our faith. Check out CCGP's advocacy toolkit for informational pieces that can easily be reprinted and shared widely. www.ccgptoolkit.org.
4. Set a date for people to sign up for CCGP after Mass if you've been printing information about advocacy in the bulletin. Or, you might incorporate sign-up at the end of an informational gathering.

Make An Impact.

1. Work together as a community to advocate for a cause that the Church supports.
2. Visit CCGP's action center to choose an issue that is important to the Church and resonates with your parish: www.confrontglobalpoverty.org/get-involved/action-center.

3. Meet with your parish leadership about how you can help parishioners learn about and get involved with the particular issue. Request permission to hold a letter-writing event. You may be able to get the word out through your parish bulletin, in pulpit announcements and through social media.
4. Host the letter-writing event. Let your elected officials know that your community cares about our sisters and brothers impacted by an issue by sending them personalized letters. Contact info@confrontglobalpoverty.org for information on hosting an event, and download the handout *Tips for Writing an Effective Letter to Your Members of Congress*. (http://www.confrontglobalpoverty.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/CCGP_Toolkit_Section_3_Letter_writing_tips.pdf)
5. At the letter-writing event, invite people to sign up for CCGP so they can stay up to date on this issue and others the Church is advancing.
6. Consider getting a small group of parishioners together to hand deliver your parish's letters to the district offices of your members of Congress. A personal meeting with your members of Congress is very effective in developing a relationship with them, and relationships matter in advancing your cause.
7. Contact info@confrontglobalpoverty.org for information, and get started by downloading the handout *How to Successfully Set Up Meetings With Your Members of Congress*. (http://www.confrontglobalpoverty.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/CCGP_Toolkit_Section_3_Setting_up_a_meeting.pdf)

**Your Missions Office
(see bottom of page two)
stands ready to assist parishes
and schools with the above
and other resources!**

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JustFaith Program Renewal Fall 2016

There Will Be One JustFaith Program For Catholic And Ecumenical Groups

At appropriate points in the program, participants have options for different (prayer or online) resources. This is not a complete re-write of the program.

Phase Themes Are As Follows:

- Phase 1: Compassion for People and the Planet
- Phase 2: Poverty at Home and Abroad
- Phase 3: Personal and Structural Biases
- Phase 4: From Violence to Nonviolence: A New Way

The Renewed Program:

- Integrates the new eco-social justice paradigm of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*;
- Includes both well-loved, long-standing resources and numerous new resources; including:
 - 8 books
 - 5 DVDs
 - 11 TED talks
 - 6 other online videos

Cost:

- Program Fee:** \$375 (Missions Office can assist with this cost)
- Books Per Person:** \$120
- Group DVDs:** \$100 (Missions Office can assist with this cost)



Just FAITH