February 2022

Prayer for Grace and Abundance

-EDUCATION FOR JUSTICE

Creator God, we ask that You move us beyond the poverty of mindless consumption to the abundance of Your Church’s social teachings.

We ask that You move us beyond our impoverished need of material things to the richness of solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout our country and around the world.

We ask that You move us beyond the empty drive to store up individual possessions to recognize the wealth of working for the common good.

Grace us to consider the human dignity and the rights as well as needs of everyone in our local, national and global communities without counting the cost, knowing that, as we have read in the recounting of the distribution of the loaves and fishes, there is always enough for everyone to come to the table.

We thank You for this abundance.
In Christ’s name, we pray.

-Amen
Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl

Updates:

- Lent begins, Wednesday, March 2nd. You are invited to take part in the American Catholic Church’s primary exercise in global solidarity, CRS Rice Bowl. Rice Bowls should have already been sent to all of our parishes and schools, but you can also call our office and we’ll ship or deliver to you.

- The good news is that there are many tools online to help us through the season of Lent, focused on the ancient practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Visit www.crsricebowl.org to find resources and learn more. Remember that 25% of Rice Bowl donations stay here in Eastern Washington. With that share, Catholic Charities made small grants in 2021 to twelve different hunger and nutrition-focused programs, in Deer Park, Twisp, Walla Walla, Omak, Republic, Dayton, Cusick, Odessa, Oroville, Brewster, and Elk, as well as Spokane. The gifts of Lent 2021 were shared across counties, serving urban and rural communities.

Word of Life Prayers

- From the USCCB, these weekly prayer intentions on topics of human life are available monthly. Prayers for March can be found here.

  - English: www.usccb.org/resources/word-of-life-2022-03_0.pdf
  - Spanish: www.usccb.org/resources/palabra-de-vida-2022-03_0.pdf

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The Regional Board of Pax Christi Northwest proposes to all Pax Christi members and friends that we observe a Lenten Fast this year focused on nuclear abolition, to do it especially as a spiritual cleansing, a collective repentance for the nuclear weapons that we live with here in Puget Sound, and the nuclear history here in Washington State.

The primary factor for this decision is the recent Pastoral Letter by Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, entitled "Living the Light of Christ's Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament." In his pastoral letter, Archbishop Wester noted: "Pope Francis has made clear statements about the immorality of possessing nuclear weapons, moving the Church from past conditional acceptance of 'deterrence' to the moral imperative of abolition. Instead of just a few hundred nuclear weapons for just deterrence, we have thousands for nuclear warfighting that could destroy God's creation on earth. Moreover, we are robbing from the poor and needy with current plans to spend at least $1.7 trillion to 'modernize' our nuclear weapons and keep them forever." Plus, the Archbishop notes, our Church has a long history of opposing these weapons; and they are now illegal by the ratified international Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons one year ago, although of course the nuclear nations (including the U.S.) have not signed this treaty.

We invite everyone to pray about nuclear weapons during this fast, especially at this time of heightened international tensions. Pray about any peace and justice concerns, but particularly about: **Why we have nuclear weapons; **Why people don't want to think or talk about them; **Why so many people in our country think we need them but fear them at the same time; **How certain people profit from them; **Why people feel so helpless to change the fact that we have them; and **Why we don't have the resources to end poverty but must have the resources to build, maintain, and deploy these weapons.

Washington State Catholic Conference Priorities

Updates:

The State Legislature is nearing the end of its short-session calendar, with only a few weeks left. There is still much that can be done to support human life and dignity.

Important Dates:

- February 28th, 2022- Last day to pass out of House fiscal committees and Senate Ways and Means and Transportation Committees
- March 4th, 2022- Last day to pass opposite house bills
- March 10th, 2022- Final Day of the state legislative session

Go to [www.thewssc.org](http://www.thewssc.org) to learn more.

A Prayer for Ukraine

Holy God,
We hold before You all who live close to war and conflict; and all who live close to the threat of war and violence. We remember especially at this time people in Ukraine and Russia.

We pray for nonviolent and peaceful resolutions of conflict.

Give to us all hearts of hospitality and sanctuary, forgive us all our hostility and hatred.

Bring all people to the humanity You give to us, and to the reconciliation and healing for which You gave Your life.

Strengthen us all to work with You to build justice and peace, reconciliation and healing, in our hearts and homes, in our streets, in all communities, neighborhoods and nations.

Bless all who live lives for the peace and wellbeing of others, and make their service fruitful.

In the name of Christ
– Amen
Lenten Reflection Series – Catholic Mobilizing Network

Throughout this 40-day journey — one that culminates in Christ's own execution — we are reminded that our broken systems are as much in need of renewal as we are. Each year, Catholic Mobilizing Network offers a collection of Lenten reflections authored by people of faith who are working to transform the broken U.S. criminal legal system. Sign up to receive these weekly reflections in your inbox, starting on Ash Wednesday:

https://default.salsalabs.org/Te19a2dd3-9fad-427f-b966-4bc4b3977b21/5a45d4e0-498d-4245-8ab1-9e9db49f1c56
Lenten Reflection Series –
Maryknoll

Maryknoll If one Lenten reflection series is good, then two is better! The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns offers an opportunity to walk with the world community during the Lenten season. In this guide, we offer reflections from Maryknoll missioners, questions, prayers, and actions based on each Sunday's Scripture readings and in light of Catholic social teaching on human rights and Maryknoll mission experience. The guide begins the first Sunday of Lent, March 6, and offers weekly reflections through Palm Sunday, April 10.

Use this guide individually or in small groups to reflect on your life patterns, to pray more deeply, and to renew your spirit to face the realities of our world:

https://default.salsalabs.org/T1b6bc36f-9aa1-4d70-bd1f-bbec1f86f957/a3be9833-b722-4865-a3f6-f9564850ac10

Laudato Sí Movement

This month, as a global movement, we're lifting up Pope Francis' intention to pray for religious sisters and consecrated women. For decades, long before Pope Francis wrote Laudato Si', these brave women were leading creation care throughout the global Catholic Church. Read and watch more about their inspiring work here:

www.mail.laudatosimovement.org/click.html\x=a62e&lc=O8&mc=s&s=rdN&st=z6RXm1&u=z&z=BstnyfD&

"Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth" (LS 92).

In February's Laudato Si' Encounter, we reflect on how we can live out these words from Jesus as we care for our common home: “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

www.mail.laudatosimovement.org/click.htmlx=a62e&lc=O8&mc=s&s=rdN&st=z6RXm1&u=z&z=BZK7Oa7&
Our 6 prayer intentions: We kindly ask you to join us in prayer. Please tag Laudato Si’ Movement on social media so we can add your prayer intentions to our list.

- For the people affected by the alluvium in Quito. For the people of Ukraine and Russia, that in this difficult time they may seek the way of peace and build a stable future for their children.

- For Latin America: so that the violence financed by world powers, creating poverty and terror, can end and we can live in charity and peace.

- For the Laudato Si’ film: (www.mail.laudatosimovement.org/click.html?x=a62e&lc=ZB&mc=s&s=rdN&st=z6RXml&u=z&z=BsjQF1n&:) As we prepare to launch this important resource later this year, we pray that it will truly be a resource for ecological conversion for the Church and beyond.

- For the gift of rain in Mexico and throughout the world, that those places suffering from extremes brought on by the climate crisis may soon feel short-term and long-term relief.

- For religious sisters and consecrated women, that God may continue to bless and guide their work as they care for God's creation throughout the world.
For Those on the Path of Adoption

We celebrate the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on March 19th. This occasion is an opportunity to highlight the gift of adoption by seeking the intercession of St. Joseph for the many people whose lives are touched by adoption. Learn more and sign up for resources here:

https://www.respectlife.org/adoption-novena-resources

Catholic Relief Services - This Is What’s Happening Now

Congressional leadership continues to negotiate the budget and has passed another continuing resolution. Meanwhile...

...millions of Ethiopians face conflict and severe food insecurity.

...Madagascar is experiencing its worst drought in more than 40 years—worsening an existing hunger crisis

....families across Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador are trying to survive amid deadly gang violence, successive failed harvests and lack of job opportunities.

Tell your members of Congress to pass the 2022 federal budget now with the highest funding levels possible for foreign assistance. A few weeks ago, a delegation of parishioners from Washington State met with staff from Senators Murray and Cantwell’s offices to make this plea. Add your voice to ours: LEAD THE WAY | Catholic Relief Services (crs.org)
“In the Church no one is a stranger, and the Church is not foreign to anyone, anywhere. As a sacrament of unity and thus a sign and a binding force for the whole human race, the Church is the place where illegal immigrants are also recognized and accepted as brothers and sisters.”

Pope John Paul II
An Appeal for Peace

To You, Creator of nature and humanity,
Author of all truth and beauty, we pray:
Hear our voices, for they are the voices of all prisoners of conscience.
Hear our voices, for they are the voices of the victims of all wars and violence among nations and individuals.
Hear our voices, for they are the voices of all innocent persons who suffer now and will suffer when people put their faith in weapons of war.
Hear our voices, when we beg you to instill into the hearts of all human beings the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice, and the joy of fellowship.
Hear our voices, for in prayer we speak for the multitudes in every country and every period of history who do not want war, and are ready to walk the difficult road of peace.
Hear our voices, and grant Your knowledge and strength so that we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice, to need with sharing of self, and to war with peace.
O God of all the peoples of all the ages of humankind, fulfill now the hope that does not disappoint; let this be the time when Your Spirit changes human hearts, and You grant to the world Your everlasting peace.
- Amen

-from a prayer of St. Pope John Paul II at Hiroshima, Japan,
Adapted by Fr. Steve Lantry, SJ
“Every war is a form of fratricide that destroys the human family’s innate vocation to brotherhood.”

-2019 World Day of Peace message