

Justice Corner for February 5, 2012

Work & Health

Today's readings address two requirements for the life and dignity of every human being: work and health. Job described the plight of workers whose employment was akin to slavery and Simon's mother-in-law needed healing.

Millions of our brothers and sisters here and abroad, work in slave-like conditions for low wages with little access healthcare. Many suffer (or have loved ones who suffer) chronic ailments that cause severe hardships. God wants all his children to have these basic rights: work that pays enough to provide for the basic needs of families and access to healthcare and healing.

Low wage earners and people living with chronic illness need our help. How do you assist people who are homebound or need help making ends meet?

God wants us to be instruments of healing! Cook a meal someone who is sick/homebound, buy groceries for a food pantry, or learn how you can partner with Catholic Charities to prevent homelessness. More information at www.ccadm.org/ourministries/preventionservices.

Justice Corner for February 12, 2012

Power to Heal Us

Today's Scriptures reminds us that some diseases, like leprosy, have social consequences. In Biblical times, lepers were ostracized from their communities and forced to identify themselves as being unclean. Thankfully, the Scriptures do not force us to expose the wounds of our souls in such a public way. Yet, sins like gossip, slander, hatred, and violence often lurk within us producing social consequences like animosity, divisions, prejudice, impatience, broken relationships, abuse, etc.

The Gospel reminds us that Jesus has the power to heal us. The Sacraments have the power to heal us – especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus can bring us back into right relationships with others if we ask for his help.

Think about difficult or broken relationships in your life. How might you have contributed to the strain? Then, like the leper, go to Our Lord and ask Him to heal your wounded soul so that you might be reconciled with your enemies.

Justice Corner for February 19, 2012

Get Creative!

Today's readings seem to call us to forget about the past and say "Yes" to the future! The friends were not deterred by the obstacles of getting the paralytic to Jesus. Rather, focused on a future of healing, they came up with an innovative solution – lowering him from the roof!

Unjust social structures that create poverty, economic injustice, and other social problems can seem insurmountable. Scripture urges us to use our creativity to overcome. We must tackle problems from all sides until we conquer them.

Unfair trading practices impoverish billions of people. Workers toil like slaves in appalling conditions to produce goods for prosperous economies. Catholics tackle this problem creatively: by promoting fair trade, supporting microfinance banking, education, agriculture, and more.

Join the movement to end unjust trading practices by choosing to drink fair trade coffee/tea and purchasing fair trade products as gifts. Your decision has the power to lift many out of poverty. More information at www.crsfairtrade.org

Justice Corner for February 26, 2012

Lenten Traditions

Today's readings show us the lengths to which God will go to save us. He established a Covenant with Noah, sent Jesus to pay for our sins, and protects us from being overcome by temptations. He has a tradition of coming to our aid!

Lent is a time to reflect on the temptations we face and develop strategies for overcoming them. We are more likely to succeed if our actions have a social dimension. One temptation we all face is "busyness". Too often our lives become so hectic that we have no time to think of others.

Operation Rice Bowl is a wonderful program that teaches prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This Lent, consider adopting a new tradition. Visit orb.crs.org to find meatless recipes from countries around the world. Then prepare these recipes as a family and take a virtual tour of life in that country. Place the money you save by eating a meatless dinner in the rice bowl. By the end of Lent you'll be able to make a special donation to help people around the world.
