



A Journey Home

“The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life.” *Spe Salvi #2*

Week 1: An Invitation into the Desert

Ash Wednesday Teaching and Reflection

The inner transformation of the human person, in being progressively conformed to Christ, is the necessary prerequisite for a real transformation of their relationship with others. It is necessary, then, to appeal to . . . the permanent need for inner conversion, so as to obtain the social changes that will really serve the human family.

#42, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, Vatican City, 2004*

- During Lent, how can we work on our inner transformation, nurturing compassion and mercy?
- How do we develop the heart and mind to authentically recognize & respond to God’s entire human family & to the challenges of Catholic social teaching?
- How do we practice hope, the virtue essential to Easter?

**“A clean heart
create for me,
O God,
and a steadfast
spirit renew
within me.”**

Psalm 51



“Call us, Lord, into the desert”

- ◇ Set aside time every day for quiet prayer and reflection on God’s love for you and how it arouses a meaningful response.
- ◇ Learn more about food, justice and social teaching by attending Hunger Banquet at St. Austin Church Saturday, Feb. 16 at 6:30PM.
- ◇ Attend Stations of the Cross and Soup Suppers each Friday during Lent at the UCC at 6PM.
- ◇ Give your time; make a commitment to volunteer with a local organization like the Micah 6 Food Pantry.

Lenten Poetry Experience

Using poetry as a prayer companion can be a rich, engaging endeavor. Poetry uses the cadences of the spoken word, the nuances of language and the employment of metaphors to invite the listener into participation in the unfolding of layers of meaning. Words can provide a bridge to experiences beyond words.

Opening Words

by Denise Levertov

I believe the earth
exists, and
in each minim mote
of its dust the holy
glow of thy candle.
Thou
unknown I know,
thou spirit,
giver,
lover of making, of the
wrought letter,
wrought flower,
iron, deed, dream.
Dust of the earth,
help thou my
unbelief. Drift
gray become gold, in the beam of
vision. I believe with
doubt. I doubt and
interrupt my doubt with belief. Be,
beloved, threatened world.
Each minim
mote.
Not the poisonous
luminescence forced
out of its privacy,
The sacred lock of its cell
broken. No,
the ordinary glow
of common dust in ancient sunlight.
Be, that I may believe. Amen.

Food Justice: A Weekly Series about Food, Faith & a Place at Table for All

By: David Pedulla, Hunger Fellow at the Center of Concern

Access to adequate quantities of safe and nutritious food is necessary for individuals to develop their full personhood and also for communities to develop for the common good, both basics of Catholic Social Teaching. The food and agricultural system has the potential to provide everyone with the food that they need. **However, even though there is currently enough food produced to feed everyone, there are still 852 million people who suffer from hunger around the world.** The structure of the agricultural system is not functioning to meet the needs of everyone on earth. **As people of faith who care about hunger and poverty, we must work to change the food and agricultural system to ensure that everyone has the right to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food. As Lent begins and we look ahead to Holy Thursday and the sharing of the Eucharist, join with other people of faith to reflect on how we are called to share food in a complex world.**

Interfaith Principles on the Food and Agricultural System: Over the next weeks of Lent, join others looking at the food and agricultural system, U.S. food and agricultural policy and their relationship to hunger and poverty worldwide. This series will focus on different ethical principles adapted from the principles of the Interfaith Working Group on Trade and Investment (www.tradejusticeusa.org), which includes Catholic groups grounded in Catholic Social Teaching.

Food for Thought

Due to the economic and political reach of the United States, the way that the U.S. structures its food and agricultural system has global consequences. The

Reflection space: _____

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agricultural policies set by U.S. politicians directly affect the lives of farmers and farm workers, consumers and citizens, both domestically and internationally. Changes to U.S. agricultural



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agricultural policy, in conjunction with restructuring international trade and investment policy, have human rights implications and the potential to alleviate or worsen poverty and hunger worldwide. Countries around the world are starting to pay close attention to U.S. farm policy, and many countries, especially in the developing world, are asking questions about the global common good. Many developing countries believe the U.S. is asking them to take away all the protections for their own farmers while the U.S. does not do the same. **This double standard is of concern to people in the developing countries of the Global South and should concern citizens of the U.S. as well who want a just world.**

Reflection Questions:

- Why is it important to understand the global implications of U.S. agricultural policy?
- Why is Lent an appropriate time to consider hunger around the world and food for all?