

## FEBRUARY 2005: BULLETIN BRIEFS

“Medicine always places itself at the service of life. Even when it knows it cannot defeat a serious pathology, it dedicates its own capabilities to alleviating suffering. To work with passion to help the patient in every situation means to be aware of the inalienable dignity of every human being, even those in the extreme conditions of a terminal state.”

Pope John Paul II, “Medicine is Always at the Service of Life,” November 12, 2004

“Created in the image of God, human beings are by nature bodily and spiritual men and women made for one another, persons oriented toward communion with God and with one another, wounded by sin and in need of salvation, and destined to be conformed to Christ, the perfect image of the Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit”

International Theological Commission,  
“Communion and Stewardship: Human  
Persons Created in the Image of God,”  
September 2004

“There are no lives that are not worth living; there is no suffering, no matter how grave, that can justify killing a life; there are no reasons, no matter how noble, that make plausible the creation of human beings, destined only to be used and destroyed.”

Pope John Paul II, “Medicine is Always at the Service of Life,” November 12, 2004

“If adult stem cell research has already demonstrated conditions for success and raises no ethical questions, it is only reasonable that it should be pursued before science embarks on cloning embryos as a source for stem cells, something which remains problematic both scientifically and ethically. Does this mean we are opposed to scientific progress? Rather, we would say that the choice is not between science and ethics, but between science that is ethically responsible and science that is not. Thousands of lives have been saved by adult stem cells.”

Archbishop Migliore, “Cloning Concerns the Nature and Existence of Human Life Itself,” Statement to 6<sup>th</sup> Committee of U.N. General Assembly, October 22, 2004

*Prepared by the USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat*

**Feb 6<sup>th</sup> FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

For all who are defenseless against the forces of violence and hate,  
and especially for the littlest of children in their mothers' wombs,  
that God will protect them from all evil;  
We pray to the Lord:

**Feb 13<sup>th</sup> FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

That through a deepening love for the poor, the broken, and forgotten,  
the ashes with which we have been marked,  
may remind us of the futility of selfishness and sin,  
and lead us to embrace the cross of Christ;  
We pray to the Lord:

**Feb 20<sup>th</sup> SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

That as our brothers and sisters prepare for Baptism,  
they may each day see more clearly  
the infinite inestimable gift which God has given us  
in life and the ability to love like him;  
We pray to the Lord:

**Feb 27<sup>th</sup> THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

For all who are imprisoned,  
but especially for those condemned to die,  
that by our prayers and our actions,  
we might love them as God does;  
We pray to the Lord:



“With courage and compassion, Bishops, priests and lay Catholics must seize the opportunity to propose to the sons and daughters of the Church, and to the whole of society, the truth about the special gift that is human sexuality. The false promises of the “sexual revolution” are now painfully obvious in the human suffering caused by unprecedented rates of divorce, by the scourge of abortion and its lasting effects on those involved. Yet the teaching of the magisterium, the development of the “theology of the body,” and the experience of faithful Catholic couples have given Catholics in the United States a uniquely powerful and compelling opportunity to bring the truth about human sexuality into a society that sorely needs to hear it.”

Pope John Paul II, to the Bishops of Minnesota, North and South Dakota (June, 1998)

# Operation Rice Bowl Celebrates its 30th Anniversary!

2005 marks the 30th Anniversary of Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program.

Operation Rice Bowl began as a program in the diocese of Allentown, PA in 1975. Today, millions of Catholics in more than 14,600 parishes, schools, and other faith communities across the U.S. use Operation Rice Bowl as a means to participate in the work of Catholic Relief Services and assist our brothers and sisters in need around the world.

Operation Rice Bowl embraces the themes of Lent and invites participants to pray with their families and faith communities, fast in solidarity with those who are hungry, learn about our brothers and sisters around the world, and give sacrificial contributions to the poor.

We invite you to join Operation Rice Bowl in our 30th Anniversary year!

Sign up to become a part of the Operation Rice Bowl Online Community! You will receive an e-mail reflection each week during Lent to guide your journey with Operation Rice Bowl. Sign up today!



## Operation Rice Bowl *World Awareness Quiz*

For answers and other information go to [www.catholicrelief.org](http://www.catholicrelief.org) and at the bottom of the page select "Site Map." On the next screen under "Get Involved" go to "Church, Parish, or Diocese"

**1. Today, \_\_\_\_\_ people in the world suffer from malnutrition.**

- 300 million
- 840 million
- 937 million

**2. How many people in the world live on less than \$1.00 per day?**

- 1.2 billion
- 50 million
- 25 million

**3. How many children in the developing world do not have access to basic education?**

- 113 million
- 74 million
- 37 million

**4. How many people in the world today do not have access to clean water?**

- 68 million
- 496 million
- 1.1 billion

**5. Of the 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS, \_\_\_\_\_ of them live in sub-Saharan Africa.**

- 19%
- 38%
- 75%

**6. The United Nations has set the minimum requirement for caloric intake per person per day at 2,350. In \_\_\_\_\_ countries, the average daily caloric intake falls below that requirement.**

- 29
- 54
- 87

**7. The amount of money that the richest 1% of the world's people make each year equals what the poorest \_\_\_\_\_ make.**

- 57%
- 83%
- 18%

**8. How many people in the United States live in poverty?**

- 16 million
- 28.3
- 32.9 million

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**9. In how many countries does Catholic Relief Services work?**

**91**

**67**

**28**

**10. Your contributions to Operation Rice Bowl help fund Catholic Relief Services' \_\_\_\_\_ programs overseas.**

**development**

**emergency response**

**both**

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*Operation Rice Bowl encourages participants to fast in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world by preparing simple meals from different parts of the world. Prepare the following meatless recipes during Lent, and experience typical meals shared by our brothers and sisters around the world, while you pray and learn about their lives.*

## **Frijoles Volteados (Refried Beans) from Guatemala**

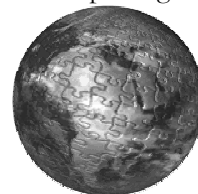
*Serves 4-6*

In a blender, crush or puree 3 cups (or 2 cans) cooked black, red, or pinto beans with liquid, 1/3 cup chopped onion, 2 cloves garlic, and 1/4 cup chopped green pepper.

Heat 1 Table Spoon of oil in a medium frying pan and add the pureed bean mixture from above and 1/2 Table Spoon ground cumin.

Simmer all the ingredients uncovered, over low heat, stirring occasionally.

Let the beans thicken (this will take about 10-15 minutes). Serve with rice and tortillas.



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## **Where Does the Money Go?**

75% of Rice Bowl proceeds come to Catholic Relief Services and help fund development projects in 40 countries around the world. No Operation Rice Bowl monies are used for emergency programming. CRS development projects include: *agricultural enrichment, water and sanitation, maternal/child health, microfinance and job training.* All of these projects are designed to uphold human dignity and encourage self-reliance for the project participants. 25% of locally collected funds remain in the Diocese of Youngstown to support local parish and community emergency food programs. *Call Catholic Charities at (330) 744-8451 for further information.*



Catholic Charities  
Diocese of Youngstown



My name is Rehmat Mashi and I live in Islamabad, Pakistan. For 15 years I worked as a sweeper for the government and earned enough money to support myself and my parents. When I got married and my wife and I began to have children, I found it

difficult to support my growing family on my government salary. I learned that Catholic Relief Services was working with community organizations in my area to help people gain skills and start small businesses...

My name is Dunia Isidora Reyes and I am 12 years old. I live in a small village in the western part of Honduras. In my community, it is difficult to get clean water for cooking our food, washing our clothes, and taking our baths. During the summer a few years ago, we learned of Catholic Relief Services' Water and Sanitation Project and were interested in working to bring clean water to our community...



*To learn more about Rehmat and his new business or about Dunia and about how Catholic Relief Services works to help communities access clean water, participate in Operation Rice Bowl during Lent 200*



# OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

## Suggested Intercessions for the Month of February

February 6            FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all those who are discerning God's call in their lives, that the Gospel may shed light upon their path, we pray to the Lord.

February 13            FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

For those who are tempted to abandon their vocation in life, that they be given the grace to persevere, we pray to the Lord.

February 20            SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

That laborers for the harvest may bear their share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God, we pray to the Lord.

February 27            THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

For an increase of workers who will respond to souls who thirst for eternal life, we pray to the Lord.

## Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for February / March

February 6, 2005 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In the first reading, Isaiah urges us in the name of the Lord to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and clothe the naked. If we do so, he assures us, the Lord will hear and answer our cries for help in time of need.

February 20, 2005 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"Bear your share of the hardship which the gospel entails," St. Paul tells Timothy in today's second reading. What sacrifice is asked of me for the sake of the Gospel? How willing am I to bear my share?

March 6, 2005 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

March 20, 2005 (Palm Sunday)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Shout the crowds in today's Gospel. May we be always ready to share our blessings when we are sent in His name!

February 13, 2005 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship? Possessions? Pride? Power?  
Oh Lord, create for us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us!

February 27, 2005 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

March 13, 2005 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified." Every aspect of our lives-our gifts as well as our sufferings-can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessings for ourselves and others.

March 27, 2005 (Easter)  
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Very early in the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with precious oils. The reward of this good and conscientious steward was to be the first to know that Jesus had been raised from the dead! Alleluia!

## **Revision of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People**

When the *Charter* was implemented in 2002, the USCCB agreed to review it in two years.

In October, 2004, each diocese was asked to participate in the *Charter* review. A workbook containing the original wording and suggested revisions was provided. In the Diocese of Youngstown, a *Charter* Review Committee was formed. The committee included members of the Priests' Council, staff persons responsible for *Policy* implementation, and members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and Diocesan Review Board. Each article of the *Charter* was reviewed with the committee either agreeing to the suggested revision, recommending to keep the original wording, or suggesting alternate wording. One workbook containing the consensus of the committee was mailed to the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Child Abuse in December, 2004.

The Bishops' June, 2005 meeting will conclude the *Charter* review process, in collaboration with the National Review Board.

### **Diocesan Review Board**

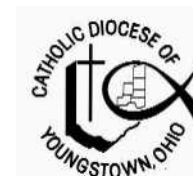
The Diocesan Review Board, organized in July, 2002, continues to serve as a consultative body. The Board meets as needed to discuss any issues that arise regarding the *Child Abuse Policy*, and will participate in a review/revision of the *Policy* in the near future.

### **Conclusion**

Through our policies and procedures, our care and concern, the Church in Diocese of Youngstown is committed to do everything within our abilities to make the Church a safe and loving place for "the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matt. 18.1) For additional information contact us at 330-744-8451, ext. 235

*"The obligation to protect children and young people and to prevent sexual abuse flows from the mission and example given to us by Jesus Christ himself, in whose name we serve." (Charter)*

# Update on Continuing Implementation and Compliance of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in the Diocese of Youngstown *Child Protection Policy*



January, 2005

## 2004 Compliance Audit

The second annual compliance audit, directed by the USCCB and conducted by independent auditors, took place in the Diocese of Youngstown in August, 2004. The results of the audits of all U.S. dioceses will be published by the USCCB Office of Child and Youth Protection in February, 2005.

Dear Friends in Christ,

In February, 2004 the Diocese of Youngstown issued “An Update on the Status of the Child Protection Policy in the Diocese of Youngstown.” Now, this 2005 document further outlines diocesan actions for the protection of children, and the continuing efforts of the Catholic Church in the United States to ensure that dioceses are in compliance with the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*.

As always, the goal of our programs and procedures is to provide a safe environment for our children. Beginning with the implementation of our original policy for child protection in 1994 and the subsequent revisions of that policy, and with our efforts at education for children and those who serve them, the parishes, schools and institutions of the Diocese of Youngstown are a welcoming and safe place in which to worship and to learn.

By continuing all our efforts, “we pledge most solemnly to one another and to you, God’s people, that we will work to our utmost for the protection of children and youth.” (*Charter*)

Sincerely yours,

Thomas J. Tobin  
Bishop of Youngstown

The Executive Summary for the Diocese of Youngstown states that “the Diocese was found to be compliant with all articles of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.” The audit also issued two “required actions” which direct us to supply (1) the number of persons who have received background investigations and (2) the number of persons who have received safe environment training. It is important to note that we are able to supply the names and status of employees and volunteers in our parishes, schools and institutions. Currently, a data base is being built which will allow us to tabulate these requested numbers. We are happy to comply with this suggested improvement to our internal procedures.

### Ongoing Efforts

The diocese continues to provide opportunities for in-service training and fingerprinting. Consultation for specific concerns is available at the Chancery Office.

The Office of Religious Education has presented in-service days for parish employees and volunteers in each of the six deaneries of the diocese. This practice is expected to continue. The mobile Webcheck unit was available at these deanery days to fingerprint employees and volunteers. The Office of Catholic Schools provides in-service days for school employees and volunteers. Parishes and schools also offer in-serving training for employees and volunteers new to ministry.

In order to accommodate persons who are unable to use the services of the diocesan Webcheck locations, permission has been given to use Webcheck at other authorized BCI Webcheck locations providing that the Chancery Office receives the BCI report.

Every effort is made to provide our employees and volunteers with the education needed to ensure safe environments for our children.