



Faith Sharing Group Reflections

Rice Bowl's weekly Stories of Hope include stories of inspiration from around the world with a particular focus on a principle of Catholic Social Teaching. **FAITH SHARING:** Gather as a faith sharing group each week to:

(1) learn about Catholic Social Teaching, (2) read from scripture, (3) ENCOUNTER the Story of Hope, (4) review faith-sharing questions, (5) end time of sharing with closing prayer.

Week One - Option for the Poor

Catholic social teaching inspires and guides how we are to live and work in the world. In this principle, Option for the Poor, Jesus tells us to give special care to those who are most in need. He reminds us of our Christian duty to give a voice to those who are unheard and to help those who are most vulnerable.

Scripture: Matthew 25: 31-46



ENCOUNTER THE SINGH FAMILY FROM INDIA

When the Malaguni River in East India floods, Megha and Raj Singh, their two children and their extended family cannot get to the nearest market—nearly five miles away—to buy and sell food. If the waters do not recede quickly, their rice fields fail, and their animals become sick from diseases spread through dirty water. The family faces financial danger.

That's why CRS is helping the Singh family prepare for flooding with new farming tools and techniques. Now Raj plants his fields worry-free using a special type of rice that can survive flooding. He can collect and save his seeds for future use. And he now has the resources he needs to vaccinate his cows, ensuring they, too, survive the floods.

Megha grows vegetables in a kitchen garden, so her family has healthy meals even when she can't visit the market. During past floods, the family had to survive solely on rice. But now, planting veggies in special sacks, she is able to raise the plants above flood lines, ensuring her family has reliable access to nutritious food.

Just as important, Megha has learned new ways of growing food, so that the entire family gets the most nutrition out of every meal. Now, the whole Singh family is healthier, and with these new ways of farming, they can continue to thrive, even during floods.

Faith-Sharing Questions:

1. What stands out for you most in today's Scripture? In the story of the Singh family?
2. How was the Catholic social teaching principle *Option for the Poor* demonstrated in this story?
3. How is God calling you to respond to the poor, to show a preferential option for the most vulnerable and needy?

Closing Prayer:

Good and gracious God,

We are all part of the Body of Christ
and members of one Church.

Help us to remember that we are called by you
to participate fully in our community,
and to support and love all those
who make up our one human family.

Amen