



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 Three - Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

Catholic social teaching inspires and guides how we are to live and work in the world. In this principle, Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers, we remember that Jesus spent years working as a carpenter. Work is important to help people live good lives, and so people must be paid a fair wage to provide for themselves and their families.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5: 13-15



ENCOUNTER FERNANDO FROM EL SALVADOR

Fernando dreams of becoming a businessman. He also dreams of a better future for his family, and this motivates him to sell cookbooks on San Salvador's buses. It's dangerous work for \$10 a day—gangs frequently stop and harass drivers and passengers—but he keeps going, determined to achieve his dreams.

It was his dreams that led him to YouthBuild, a six-month, CRS-sponsored program that trains young people in business. There, he found a positive community to help him pursue his passion, despite the challenges of life in El Salvador. "When I tell my classmates that I want to do something, they tell me to try it and to not hold back."

Training for six months with YouthBuild wasn't easy on Fernando or his family. Without his wife to support him and care for their two young daughters, the early mornings and long days might have been impossible. "YouthBuild is a family because families help you realize your dreams," Fernando says. It's a fact he knows well.

Fernando is putting his newfound skills to work. After graduating from YouthBuild in 2016, he took part in a series of entrepreneur workshops organized by CRS and is currently working on a new business plan. He is also a part of the YouthBuild network of graduates, youth leaders who mentor other young people and look for new opportunities for employment and growth.

"We have a saying," says Fernando. "Once a YouthBuilder, always a YouthBuilder."

Faith-Sharing Questions:

1. How do you connect today's Scripture passage with the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers? Is there a personal message God would like to share with you and/or your loved ones about this commandment?
2. Who have you known like Fernando, who has struggled for dignified work and/or a fair wage? Where can you identify the work of the Holy Spirit in these stories?
3. How can you help others around you to decent, meaningful work, fair wages and/or to follow the 3rd commandment more fully?

Closing Prayer:

Jesus the carpenter,
We pray that each person discovers
their passion and true calling.
May all people have the opportunity
to pursue their dreams
through safe, well-paying work.
Amen