



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 Five – Care for God's Creation

Catholic social teaching inspires and guides how we are to live and work in the world. In this principle, Care for God's Creation, we remember that God created every plant, every mountaintop, every animal-everything. And God said that these things are good. We find God in these good things, and so we must take care of creation-both for ourselves and for all of our human family.

Scripture: Daniel 3: 56-82



ENCOUNTER DITA FROM ETHIOPIA

Dita, her husband and their seven children depend on the money they earn selling crops from their small farm in Ethiopia. But frequent droughts often mean that families like Dita's who depend on home-grown crops go hungry. And amidst the current, historic drought, more than 10 million people are struggling with hunger.

But thanks to a CRS program that helps families prepare for crises like droughts, Dita was able to build a new house and open a small store. Instead of relying solely on what she can grow on her farm, she is able to sell items like pasta, shampoo and bananas. She earns a steady \$400 a month.

"Before, I had to get eggs from my neighbors. Now I have 15 hens," she proclaims. Saving money and being able to borrow not only allowed her to buy hens but also a metal roof for her new house, a rarity for families in this part of Ethiopia.

"Now we have no problems with food," she says. Unlike families across Ethiopia that struggle to find enough to eat, Dita says her children eat three times a day, thanks to her newfound business knowledge. And what's more, all her children are attending school. "When I was a child, there were no education opportunities," she says. Then, with a shy but proud smile, she adds, "That's a big difference. "

Faith-Sharing Questions:

1. Create 1-3 of your own sayings for how creation blesses the Lord by filling in the blank:
_____ bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever.
2. How was the Catholic social teaching principle Care for God's creation demonstrated in this story?
3. What are some ways you try to care for God's creation?

Closing Prayer:

Loving Creator of all things,
You have given us a beautiful home
and have asked us to care for it.
Help us to remember that we are the Earth's caretakers.
May we always be respectful
and loving to all of your creation.
We ask this in your name.
Amen