



## 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 Six – Global Solidarity

*Catholic social teaching inspires and guides how we are to live and work in the world. In this principle, Global Solidarity, Jesus tells us to love our neighbors, even though they may be different than us. That means the neighbors who live next door and also those who live on the other side of the planet. Jesus reminds us that we are all part of God's great family.*

**Scripture: Colossians 3: 8-17**



### ENCOUNTER OUR NEIGHBORS IN HAWAII FROM THE CHUUK ISLANDS

*You are born with breadfruit, you grow up with breadfruit and you die with breadfruit.* This popular saying from the Micronesian island of Chuuk, thousands of miles off the coast of Hawaii, captures the **importance of this starchy fruit**. It's a staple both for the Chuukese living in Micronesia, and for people like Micaela, who were forced to migrate to Hawaii due to a changing climate and rising

seas.

Though Micaela moved to Hawaii seeking a better life, she instead found a community of Chuukese struggling with hunger. Through the **One 'Ohana: Food and Housing for All** program, Micaela organizes groups of women to learn farming techniques. Together, they gain the knowledge to plant breadfruit trees and feed their communities.

For Micaela, the project is a way to look to the future while remembering the past. "It's been many years since I dug my hands in the ground. We are reconnecting back to our home, even though it's not the soil from where we came from," she says.

### Faith-Sharing Questions:

1. How does today's Scripture relate with the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Solidarity? How do you connect it the story of the Chuukese?

2. As we move into Holy Week, how would you connect Jesus' passion and death with the principle of Solidarity? With the other principles of Catholic Social Teaching?
3. Reflecting on all the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, which one touches you most at this point in your life? Which one are you called to put more of your time, talent and treasure into?

### **Closing Prayer:**

God of compassion,  
Pope Francis challenges us to learn how to cry,  
to brave that pain,  
and so enter into true solidarity with your people.

For those who face hunger,  
for those who face war,  
for those who face exploitation,  
for those who face displacement,  
I stand in solidarity.

For those who face unjust discrimination,  
for those who face indifference,  
for those who face a lack of opportunity,  
for those who face a lack of health care,  
I stand in solidarity.

But, in truth, I stand with a little  
reluctance.

And I stand a little far off—detached  
and apart from the great human drama,  
lingering in the orchestra,  
even as you call me to the center stage.

Lord, help me to look again at what  
has been done to your people,  
to their lives and to their dignity,  
so that slowly, and then more strongly,  
I will allow myself to cry.

For it is only in those tears that we truly become one.  
My trepidations fall away and I step forward and stand anew.  
Teach me to cry.  
Amen