

Lent 2016

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



Vision

A truly just, healthy, and peaceful world.

Mission

As an instrument of faith, PWRDF connects Anglicans in Canada to communities around the world in dynamic partnerships to advance development, to respond to emergencies, to assist refugees, and to act for positive change.



THE PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

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INTRODUCTION

In our world, an average of 1 in 8 of God's children face the risk of hunger and malnutrition. PWRDF and partners want to change that. This Lenten resource invites you to be part of that change through your prayers as we delve deeper into the reality of food security.

UR LENTEN JOURNEY begins by considering the basics of food—food aid, food security and food sovereignty.

Each week focuses on one of five themes of food security and connects that theme with a PWRDF partner's project or program.

The 5 A's of food security are:

- Availability food is available to all people at all times
- Accessibility people have economic as well as physical access to food
- Acceptability food is culturally acceptable
- Appropriateness food is nutritious and free from harmful chemicals or other substances
- Agency people have the ability to influence policy and processes that affect their lives

More information on the 5 A's can be found within the Fred Says resources or in the video "Naba on Food Security" on the PWRDF Youtube page, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CaAhrsisPw.

The Book of Alternative Services encourages us to focus our prayers on The Church, The Community, The World, Those in Leadership, Those in Need and The Departed. The prayers in this book aim to help us make connections between those subjects of prayer and the issues of hunger that exist in our local and global communities. They are meant to be moments of stillness in the presence of God, for deeper reflection

(individually and collectively) on the issues themselves and on ways in which we might engage and support the ministries of PWRDF partners.

You are welcome to use these prayers in personal reflection and public worship; amending as best suits your situation. While this prayer resource has been designed for use during Lent, you are encouraged to use these prayers at any time of the year.

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Wednesday February 10, 2016: Ash Wednesday

SOIL

Madre Tierra Women's Association, Guatemala

In 2014, 477 women learned about soil conservation, revitalization and recovery; they participated in agro-ecology fairs; they learned and taught of the important link between healthy soil and food security. Knowing the soil contains 25% of earth's bio-diversity helps the growers have a greater respect for what is literally underfoot.

Prayer

Gracious Creator,

On this day, we remember that you made us from the dust of the earth and that one day we will return there.

Help us to see the beauty in this cycle; the potential and the promise. Help us to recognize soil as a source of life, nutrition and growth.

Help us, in this life, to be the soil that gently holds seeds until their appointed season of growth. Help us to be the conduits of nutrition both given and received.

Holy One, help us see our role in protecting the soil, from which you fashioned us.

Prayer for Action

We pray for the world; trying to wash itself sterile; even from the ashy reminder of life's frailty and uncertainty. We give thanks for those who will wear these reminders; ashes on foreheads and under fingernails, rejoicing in the gift of the earthy work of ministry in the world.

May the work of our hands in God's world be a source of life, not always seen, but always of benefit. May we change our perspectives so we do not see our ministries as insignificant, but rather as those that are teeming with life. May we become comfortable as soil, grounding growth in faith.

God who created us from the dust of the earth, may we not wash you away. May the actions of our lives reflect the intention of your work in us.

Prayer for Giving

May we learn from our sisters in Guatemala that soil is important and essential. May we remember that the food on our plates spent its season of growth dependent on the soil. May we respect the soil in our own lives and those of our sisters and brothers.

Just as we ask you to create in us a clean heart, O God, we also ask that you would create in us a healthy respect for the Earth without which we could not survive. May our gifts to your world allow for the soil of our lives to be re-energized, not depleted.

Without healthy soil, there is no food; there is no life. Without health in our lives, there is no nourishment; there is no life.

May our Lenten journey, praying with our partners, restore us to life —in the ashes, in the dust of the earth, in the soil.

Thursday February 11, 2016

FOOD AID: giving unfed people something to eat

The devastating earthquakes that rocked Nepal in the spring of 2014 left thousands without the basic needs for life. PWRDF, working through existing ACT Alliance partners in Nepal, immediately provided relief packages of food, water, shelter and medical supplies to over 820 families. Thousands of hungry people were fed with healthy food when they needed it most, and with hope and support for the rebuilding that would come.

Prayer

Holy God, you are the source of our nourishment, who has provided for your people throughout all of history. We give you thanks for your care for us, for your abundant gifts in this life. We give you thanks that we are invited to share that abundance with those who are in need. May we recognize our Lenten fast as a spiritual feast, until we all gather at your Heavenly banquet.

Prayer for Action

Transform our minds, O God, to know the difference between want and need.

Transform our hearts, O God, to see the hungry in our midst.

Transform our attitudes, O God, to quickly distribute your love instead of our judgment.

Transform our lives, O God, to do for the least of your children as we would do for you.

Prayer for Giving

Generous God, your Son promised us that He was the Bread from Heaven. The disciples asked for that bread to be forever given. Help us to celebrate your generosity to us by acting generously to others. Help us to respond to the needs of those around us; those who have not eaten today, those who will not eat tomorrow. Help us to build up your Kingdom where all may be fed in abundance.

Friday February 12, 2016

FOOD SECURITY: Having enough healthy food for yourself and your family for the long-term.

The Cuban Council of Churches' Sustainable Development Program works with local families to raise agricultural yield, reduce rural poverty, empower local leadership, improve nutrition, improve resilience to climate change, foster gender empowerment and break dependency on imported foods. In 2014, 227 people farmed small plots of previously unused or unproductive land to produce grains and vegetables and raise small animals. Three new wells provided 10 families access to clean water for themselves and their gardens.

Prayer

Compassionate God, we hold before you all those who are in need. For those who are hungry; for those who feed their children instead of themselves; for those whose unemployment or underemployment restricts their food security; for those who have no control over the policies impacting their food supply. We ask your blessings on those whose ministry both feeds the hungry today and empowers them to feed themselves in the future.

Prayer for Action

God, open our eyes to the potential garden in our lives.

Open our eyes to see that the weeds in our lawns symbolize such abundance of food that we can choose to grow ornamental grass.

Open our eyes to see that the neglected lot we pass by could become a community garden for the hungry in our neighbourhood.

Open our eyes to see the creative opportunities to feast on what is in our fridges and cupboards, rather than to let food go to waste.

Open our eyes to see that the food on our plates is reason to be thankful.

Prayer for Giving

Inspire in us a desire to change the world; stir up within us an intolerance to the reality that 1 in 8 families do not have enough to eat. May we celebrate the small successes of backyard gardens that change lives for this generation and the next. May we be generous with the resources we have, sharing our abundance with those who are in need.

Saturday February 13, 2016

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: the right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and the right to define one's own food and agriculture systems.

PWRDF's Mozambique partner, Association for Community Health (EHALE), is improving access to health services and food security in 144 villages. In addition to equipping some 1,600 farmers with seeds and livestock, the training of community leaders has led to an increased awareness of the links between nutrition and health, the importance of food to maternal newborn and child health and the significance of being involved in local food systems.

Prayer

For those who have departed this life in hunger, we pray.

For those who have never known food security, we pray.

For those who have no control over their own food systems, we pray.

For those who depend on the aid of others, we pray.

And for those who empower and support those who are regaining sovereign food systems, we give thanks to the Lord.

Prayer for Action

God, you give us inquiring and discerning hearts. We turn these hearts to learn more about food systems and how our decisions about food impact every other aspect of our lives. May we come to a fuller understanding of the seven pillars of food sovereignty* in our own

food systems and in those of our brothers and sisters around the world. May this knowledge in our hearts help the works of our hands support a more just and sovereign world.

Prayer for Giving

Loving God, as we already strive to protect existing food systems, help us also to do more. Help us to find new ways to support grassroots food movements. Help us to support improving food systems with inputs from producers and consumers. Help us to empower work that realizes the interconnection of food with all aspects of life. Help us to see food sovereignty as a focus of your Easter promise, even now as we are newly into our Lenten journey.

^{*}According to the International Forum for Food Security (Mali, 2007) the seven pillars of food sovereignty are: sovereignty focuses on food for people, builds knowledge and skills, works with nature, values food providers, localizes food systems, puts control locally and asserts that food is sacred. See Food Secure Canada - http://foodsecurecanada.org/accessed 25 july 2015

Sunday February 14, 2016

AVAILABILITY: When food is available to all people at all times

In Bangladesh, PWRDF partners with the development arm of the Church of Bangladesh, run a comprehensive rural development program which promotes health and womens' and childrens' rights.

Food security and proper nutrition are a key component of this program

There are 2,100 immediate participants, and the benefits extend to their families and friends. The women are engaging with new technology to improve agricultural production, particularly kitchen gardening; this has contributed to improved nutrition and increased food security. These women and their families are actively practicing both good nutrition and sanitation.

Further, education in group management, record keeping, financial management, conflict resolution and legal rights work ensure that food remains available year round.

Being able to participate in the control of their own food and health systems, the women in this development program are feeling valued and respected by their families.

Monday February 15, 2016

Prayer

Loving God, we give you thanks for your church. We hold in our hearts and our minds the people of the Church of Bangladesh; we give you thanks for all of their development programs, especially for the rural development program. We give you great thanks for the women and children being trained in all aspects of food security, that they may always have food available. We give thanks for your people, the church, who make this possible.

Prayer for Action

We give thanks for those who make food available in our lives, those whose work we often forget or take for granted:

For those who grow crops and tend livestock, for those who maintain their health and development;

For those who bank seeds, and those who track finances;

For those who harvest, and for those who store;

For those who load and unload, and for those operating and maintaining transport;

For those who mill, and those who butcher;

For those who package, and for those who sell;

For those who keep facilities clean, for those who do inspections;

For those who stock shelves, for those who cook for us.

Prayer for Giving

We give thanks for the Church of Bangladesh and their work with rural populations. We ask God's blessings on the 2,100 women and children who have become leaders in making food available to their families. We ask that they may continue to be a blessing in the church, sharing their skills and faith with your people.

Tuesday February 16, 2016

Prayer

We give thanks for the leadership in the Church of Bangladesh; for the Rt. Rev. Paul S. Sarker, for his ministry as Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh and as Chair of the Social Development Program. Grant all who hold authority in the church and its programs a desire to know you and to do your will.

Prayer for Action

Holy God, we hold in prayer all who have authority in our food systems; the politicians, corporations, producers and others. Bless their work, that we might continue to have food available to us. Guide our work, that our focus may be to make and keep food available for all of your children.

Prayer for Giving

We give thanks for the authority granted to the women and children in Bangladesh; for their training and work to make food available. As we enjoy the respect and value we give to the women and children in our lives, so we support the ongoing development with our sisters in this program.

Wednesday February 17, 2016

Prayer

Creator of the cosmos, we give you thanks for this world that sustains us. We give you thanks for our sisters in Bangladesh who are utilizing their corner of your world to provide for their families and neighbours. We ask that your blessings would continue to be upon them as they use your creation to make food available.

Prayer for Action

We pray for the world, for the greatness of creation, for the potential in the tiny. We pray for the bio-diversity in the soil, the potential in the seeds, the opportunity to use the soil to create our own nourishment. May we be amazed at the vast possibilities in our own corner of the cosmos, inspired by the potential of what lays before us to make your bounty available to all.

Prayer for Giving

Gracious God, you did not divide the world when you made it; you created all to be shared by all. Help us to see the world not as land to be 'owned', and instead as your Garden to be nurtured and sustained by all. Help us to use your land that its abundance might be shared by all.

Thursday February 18, 2016

Prayer

We give thanks for the communities that are being built, nurtured and supported in Bangladesh. We give thanks for the women who, together, are increasing their own food security and that of their neighbours. We give thanks for the children who are learning these skills and pray that they will always use them to continue having food available for all who are hungry.

Your Prayer for Action

Prayerfully consider your home community; you might undertake a prayer walk, or pay attention on your commute. Do you see people who are hungry? Do you know of people who are hungrier in the winter as food becomes less available? Is there a local food bank — and is it enough?

Pray for your community; pray that food is available to all people at all times.

Prayer for Giving

For the available food in our communities, we give thanks to the Lord.

For the opportunity to assist other communities to have available food, we give thanks to the Lord.

Friday February 19, 2016

Prayer

God of abundance, we hold before you lives transformed. We hold up the 2,100 women and children who are making food available to their villages. We hold before you the coming seasons where food will be available. We hold before you future generations who will have increased food security. God of abundance, we hold before you, with profound gratitude, the lives of our Bangladesh partners.

Prayer for Action

We pray for those in need:

For those without land to grow food; for those who do now know how to tend a garden; for those without skill to prepare and cook healthy meals; for those who cannot access a market or food store; for those who suffer malnutrition; for those who are hungry.

We pray for those in need; in our own communities and around the world. Lord have mercy.

Prayer for Giving

Open our eyes to see those in need;

Open our ears to hear their cries;

Open our hands to make a difference.

Saturday February 20, 2016

Prayer

We give thanks for the programs that help make food available to parents with growing children, that they might be properly nourished. We give thanks for programs that teach the essential connections between nutrition and health. We give thanks for programs that integrate sanitation and food security. We give thanks for programs that promote life.

Prayer for Action

We pray for those who have departed this life with full bellies; for those who accessed health care; for those who gardened; for those who shopped for food; for those who took their food secure status for granted.

We pray for those who have departed this life in less fortunate circumstances.

We pray for ourselves, that we might appreciate the importance of food in our lives.

Prayer for Giving

Inspire us, O God, to assist those who suffer loss: loss of dignity as they beg for food; loss of independence as they rely on food aid; loss of integrity as they cannot feed themselves.

Inspire us, O God, to assist those who minister to those who suffer: who strive to bring value and respect, skills and knowledge, food and life to those who are in need.

Sunday February 21, 2016

ACCESSIBILTY: When people have economic as well as physical access to food

In the Diocese of Masasi, Tanzania, researchers showed most illnesses and deaths were caused by a lack of enough healthy food, potable water and trained health workers. PWRDF collaborated with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) in a partnership with the Diocese of Masasi.

New water wells were established in 12 villages, with revolving funds-income that supports the continued operation and maintenance and pump attendants; these provide safe drinking water to more than 20,000 people. Most people can now access this water within a 20-40 minute walk; previously people walked 3-4 hours for water.

More than 600 community health workers have been trained; and they are sharing knowledge of health issues including food safety, nutrition, safe water and food security.

More than 8,000 farmers – 75% of those involved in the program – have adopted new agricultural technologies, and are applying better farming practices such as proper spacing, sowing and planting of different food and cash crops. They feed their animals through a zero-grazing system on cut grass, limiting their use of pastures, and thereby protecting crops not intended for animal feed and preventing animal droppings from leaching into water systems.

These new practices have validated and integrated Indigenous knowledge in a way that is sustainable and environmentally friendly.

The impacts of this program will continue into the future; already nearly one-quarter of all farmers can explain and therefore teach others the benefits of at least two of these new technologies, and nearly one-third of the farmers can articulate at least two benefits of sustainable agriculture.

Monday February 22, 2016

Prayer

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the church that worships you, loves you, prays to you.

Nearly 550,000 worshiping Canadian Anglicans, ask your blessings on the 800,000 Anglicans worshiping in the Diocese of Masasi. May we all benefit from access to the bread of life that you offer to us; may we be fed physically in this life and spiritually in the next. Together, let us feast on your abundant gifts.

Prayer for Action

Heavenly Love, we humble ourselves under your mighty hand. We gather together weekly as your people, in your house, and share in your meal. Forgive us for the times we take for granted this generous gift; as we gather this coming week may we be thankful for access to local communal worship; may we be thankful for access to a safe and healthy place to gather; may we be thankful for access to a spiritual meal.

Prayer for Giving

Our church, our *ekklesia*, calls for us to come away from the world towards God. As we gather around the table of God, we delight in a foretaste of the kingdom, sharing the bread and wine. Christ offers abundant nourishment to all who gather at His table to partake in the feast. So too may we be inspired to share in the feast; may our faith instruct our generosity to ensure that all have access to a banquet at their home table as well as at the table of God.

Tuesday February 23, 2016

Prayer

God who journeys with us; we hold before you the Diocese of Masasi and the Province of Tanzania. We give you thanks for the ministry of Right Reverend James Almasi, Bishop of the Diocese. We give you thanks for the staff and volunteers of the PWRDF/DFATD program. We ask your blessings on all those in authority in this development, that their good works might glorify your holy name.

Prayer for Action

We hold in prayer those whose authority impacts how food is accessible to us;

for civil engineers who design our cities and towns;

for local store owners and farmers' markets;

for municipal planners who grant land use permits;

for government programs that regulate food production and sale;

for our own employers who pay our wages and influence our buying capabilities.

We hold in prayer all those who hold authority over food accessibility, trusting that their work may be for the benefit of all.

Prayer for Giving

Generous God, we thank you for the bishops, priests, deacons, and lay ministers in our churches and lives. We thank you for their ministries to us and to our communities. We thank you for the opportunity for us to minister to them in their daily work for justice and peace.

We pray for those who are in authority in the Diocese of Masasi; for their daily ministry to the hungry, the sick, the poor. We hold in prayer the decisions they make and the works of their hands, all in your name, so that the people they serve may be filled with food and with faith.

May the generosity of our prayers be matched with generosity in our lives as we give you thanks for the faithful example shared with us this day.

Wednesday February 24, 2016

Prayer

We pray for the villages in Tanzania who now benefit from access to fresh water; for their responsible use and care of the wells in their villages. We give thanks for the wise use of financial resources to maintain and continue the accessibility of these precious sources, and for the employment now available for their attendants. Let your justice flow like waters; let your justice increase to those in need just as the waters now flow more freely in Masasi.

Prayer for Action

Creator God, you called this world into being in the midst of the waters. You have used water to show us redemption, compassion, renewal. Stir up in our hearts a desire to appreciate the water in our lives; may we not take for granted the clean water we access through our taps; may we not complain at the price to bring clean water into our homes. May we appreciate the gift that literally pours into our homes, just as your love pours through the entirety of our world.

Prayer for Giving

God of abundance, with every drink today may we give thanks for the safety of our water systems; with every toilet flush today may we give thanks for the sanitation systems; with every bill we pay, may we give thanks for the affordability of water to wash, cook and clean. Holy God, as we give thanks for these things in our lives, so may we support them in the lives of others.

Thursday February 25, 2016

Prayer

For the people in southern Tanzania, we give thanks to the Lord.

For the communal villages, called Ujamaa, where people live together, where every family has land, we give thanks to the Lord.

For the agricultural-based economy that employs 80% of the workforce, we give thanks to the Lord.

For the integration of traditional tools and new technologies, we give thanks to the Lord.

For the sharing of knowledge, skills and resources, we give thanks to the Lord.

Prayer for Action

We give thanks for the community's commitment to creative use of the land in the Diocese of Masasi, where topography and climate restrict crop cultivation to 4% of the land area.

Gracious God help us to consider how we use our available land; how much of your world we cover with pavement or with ornamental plants; how much we poison with chemicals or bury with waste; and how much we dedicate to sustainable use for our own nourishment.

May our use of land reflect our commitment to community, for this generation and the next.

Prayer for Giving

Lord, we invite you to walk with us as we discover our own communities; the land, the people, the opportunities, as we shovel the footpath for the infirm, as we carry the groceries of the elderly, as we offer hospitality to those who are hungry and lonely and feel hopeless. Walk with us Lord, that we might never walk alone; bring us to the path of another that we might all access your grace together.

Friday February 26, 2016

Prayer

We pray for those who are in need in the Diocese of Masasi, where nearly 40% of the population live in poverty. We give thanks for the programs that strive to increase health, access to water and food security. We give thanks for the dedication to improving lives and livelihoods, and for finding new ways to work collaboratively. We celebrate that the people have improved physical and economic accessibility to food sources, safe water and integrated health care systems.

Prayer for Action

Holy One, we pray for those in need in our communities:

For those who cannot afford nutritious food to stock their kitchens;

For those whose budgets are so tight that a failed recipe means a hungry night;

For those whose ailments prevent them from walking through large grocery stores;

For those who are unable to transport all their food needs from the store to their homes;

For those whose communities are food deserts, barren of any source of food supply;

For those who are food insecure due to lack of accessibility, we pray.

Prayer for Giving

We give thanks for the ways we learn from our own experience, adapting new ways of doing things into our existing patterns. We pray for those of us who have lost knowledge of how to access sustainable food and we pray for those who are learning these skills anew. May we support the programs that teach sustainable agriculture and the industry that processes these agricultural products.

Saturday February 27, 2016

Prayer

God of all consolation, we pray for those who have left this life before us. We pray for the people in the Diocese of Masasi whose lives ended prematurely, due to hunger, thirst and illness. We give thanks that through the work of your people, lives are extended, health is increased and grief is less present.

Prayer for Action

We pray for the little deaths in our lives:

for the death of compassion when we judge others harshly;

for the death of humanity when we value things over people;

for the death of unconditional love, when we fail to pray for those we dislike;

for the death of faith when we fail to love others as Jesus commands us; We pray for the little deaths in our lives:

for the death of poverty when we work for a living wage;

for the death of indignity when we see the Christ in all people;

for the death of hunger when we ensure everyone has access to food; for the death of injustice when we see Christ in all people.

Prayer for Giving

God of care, we remember those circumstances of departure which have reduced food security for your people. We remember the floods; the droughts; the landslides; the fires; the pests; the bad seed; the conflicts. We remember how uncertain food security is.

In this land of abundance, we give thanks for the ongoing access to food despite these many challenges across the globe.

In this land of abundance, we pledge to support in prayer and in gift those people whose access to food is depleted when challenges arise. May new technologies and traditional knowledge continue to offer hope of increased food security.

Sunday February 28, 2016

ACCEPTABILITY: When food is culturally acceptable

At "Sharing Bread Two," a PWRDF sponsored course in 2015 at the Sorrento Centre, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald co-led a session on food justice. One notable exercise demonstrated the prohibitively expensive cost of basic foods in the Arctic like cabbage or frozen concentrated juice. A discussion over bottled water was described as "lively" as Bishop Mark shared that a case of 24 500mL bottles could cost over \$100.

The history of food in Indigenous cultures is a beautiful and complex one; historically permaculture, where agriculture and social designs use the patterns of the natural eco-system, was the norm. In many areas the practices of hunting, fishing, and gathering wild rice, considered a sacred food, helped promote a healthy and sustainable diet.

Western colonization had a negative impact on Indigenous communities both culturally and nutritionally, as their nomadic nature decreased with western colonization and agriculture. Subsequently, food security also declined.

Co-facilitator Sheilagh McGlynn wrote "We learned that for Indigenous communities being able to hold on to their culture brings food security... and food security means they are holding on to their culture. The two realities are interlinked."

Monday February 29, 2016

Prayer

We pray for the church; for Indigenous ministries across Canada; we pray for those who stand in solidarity with those ministries, undertaking advocacy roles as an expression of faith. We give thanks for those who regularly pray for our Indigenous brothers and sisters, holding in their hearts and minds the need for acceptable food and culture for us all.

Prayer for Action

Stir up in us, O God, a desire to know more, to care more, to contribute more. Help us to see that injustice for Canada's Indigenous peoples is injustice for all people. Make us indignant towards the suffering of your Indigenous church; help us to become the voices shouting out against all that will destroy Indigenous lives and livelihoods; help us to become the hands and feet which will tear down the barriers to food security and food sovereignty.

Prayer for Giving

We support those in the church who have felt called to action. We give thanks for possibilities for development that have not yet been imagined. We thank you for creative thinking that has grown into relationships, such as PWRDF's work with the Pikangikum water project and for the continued opportunities to work together. May we celebrate being an active part of the relationships that demonstrate God's love for the whole church.

Tuesday March 1, 2016

Prayer

We pray for the Right Reverend Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop. We pray for his ministry among Canada's Indigenous population. We pray for his ministry among Canada's non-Indigenous population. We pray for his ministry to the other Indigenous Bishops and leadership across the country and around the world. May we all learn from his teaching on cultural acceptability.

Prayer for Action

As we continue to learn more about our own history here in Canada, may we learn more about how food plays a role in our history. May we spend time discovering what foods were traditionally eaten, what plants were used in traditional medicines, what languages were spoken, what cultural expressions were shared, what political systems were common, what was 'normal' in our home areas, before colonization. May we open our hearts to be transformed by the wonders of your grace, present and active in your world long before our arrival.

Prayer for Giving

Eternal One, we ask your blessing on all those who are in authority; for those whose policies we agree with and for those we do not; for those whose cultures we understand and those we do not; for those whose priorities we align with and those we do not. Help us, loving God, to dedicate our prayers that your will be done, in your people, for your greater glory.

Wednesday March 2, 2016

Prayer

Gracious Creator, we give you thanks for your world. We thank you for the Aboriginal peoples who have long practiced right relationship with the land and we ask that we might learn from them. We acknowledge that northern communities are especially susceptible to changing climate and it's impact on their environmental, social and economic wellbeing. We recognize these will all impact the food security of our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Gracious God, we pray for your world; may we all work together to bring healing to the land and water and air which sustains us.

Prayer for Action

We pray for those who have been driven from their lands; who can no longer access their traditional food sources; who have lost their traditional skills and knowledge for food acquisition; who have been restricted both physically and spiritually from the world as they knew it. We pray for the land, the animals, landscapes, and all beings who have had their human brothers and sisters removed from them. We pray for all within creation who are disconnected from one another, who have lost their niche in the cosmos.

Prayer for Giving

God of healing, we pray you come to us. Forgive us our systems that require Indigenous peoples to rely on unsustainable technologies. Forgive us our industry that scars the planet and scars the souls of the people who live there. Forgive us our indifference as a rapidly changing climate causes more hardship to our northern communities than anyone should have to endure.

Help us support those who seek balance, who seek to restore right relationship with the world. Help us bring peace to your great creation.

Thursday March 3, 2016

Prayer

Holy God, we thank you for the opportunity to learn, to grow, to develop. We thank you for the wealth of knowledge about the connection of culture and food that exists in Indigenous communities. Help us to recognize and appreciate the integrated reality of food security and overall health in all of our communities. We thank you for the existing knowledge of culturally acceptable food security issues and we ask that this knowledge will continue to be shared, taught and celebrated; that its use may increase to the benefit of all.

Prayer for Action

As we prepare our favourite meal, we consider our own unique heritage.

We give thanks for the cultural history that inspired the meal; for the history and tradition that goes into a simple recipe.

We give thanks for the memories surrounding the meal; for the celebrations in community for special occasions; for the company we kept as together we feasted.

We give thanks for these memories; for the connections to our families and histories and heritage. We cherish the connection to community that we celebrate around our food.

We pray that every community might have such connections to celebrate.

Prayer for Giving

Help us to appreciate how food brings our community together and to support those communities that are rebuilding this relationship. Help the community of your people be one that gathers around the table. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts promote food security in Canadian Indigenous populations in ways that will ever be acceptable in your sight, O God.

Friday March 4, 2016

Prayer

God of love, we ask your forgiveness for creating a world where Indigenous Canadians have been taught to mistrust institutions.

We ask your forgiveness for closing our hearts and minds and allowing stigma to control our actions.

We ask forgiveness for standing by while cultures, languages, food, tribes have suffered.

We ask your forgiveness for our complacency to these injustices. We ask your forgiveness for our ignorance when truth was shared.

We ask your help to do better, to be better. Help us to journey on the road to reconciliation.

Prayer for Action

We hold in prayer all who are in need;

those living in poverty in urban situations; those whose only food comes from different cultures; those whose health deteriorates because of politics; those who have forgotten traditional ways of cooking; those whose environment can no longer sustain them; those who have no access to potable water or waste systems; those who will never know their traditional way of life.

We hold in prayer all who hold hope; who know that their God is greater than their need.

Prayer for Giving

May our prayers be a balm to previous injuries. May our gifts be generous and abundant.

May our eyes see a future without hunger; may our ears hear a future full of joy; may our hands touch a future without need; may our hearts love a future without fear.

May we feast together at the banquet of our Lord, where everyone will be filled with life abundant. May that feast start today.

Saturday March 5, 2016

Prayer

We pray for the survivors of residential schools, who witnessed the death of their culture, traditions, history and their inability to access their own food.

We pray for those who inadvertently denied these children culturally acceptable foods, believing that they were doing the right thing.

We pray for all Indigenous people who have felt denied part of themselves as they have been denied acceptable foods.

We give thanks for all those who are working to reestablish a cultural link to food and to ensure that such an injustice does not happen again.

Prayer for Action

For cultures lost; Lord have mercy,

For food security threatened; Lord have mercy.

For health diminished; Lord have mercy.

For compassion renewed in the spirit of our minds; we give thanks to the Lord.

For commitment to following the commandments of Jesus; we give thanks to the Lord.

For the desire to renew right relationships; we give thanks to the Lord.

Prayer for Giving

We lament the past; we mourn in the present, we vow to be different in the future. Help us to take the first steps towards reconciliation, empower us to forge new relationships, strengthen us for the work of ministry, change our attitudes such that all we do will support life and health and nourishment in all its sacred glory. May we live and conduct ourselves in a manner that is worthy of you.

Sunday March 6, 2016

APPROPRIATENESS: When food is nutritious and free from harmful chemicals

In Burundi, the Diocese of Bujumbura runs a DFATD funded program that aims to improve access to health and food. The long-lasting relationship between PWRDF and the Diocese of Bujumbura covers many aspects of health, gender rights and food security.

Focusing on the food component of the program, the Diocese reports that at least 6,394 direct participants now have increased awareness of the importance of nutrition; they have developed skills to set up their own vegetable gardens and diversify their crops.

Nearly 16,000 households have improved their hygiene practices in terms of sanitation, prevention and protection against malaria, cholera and other preventable diseases.

Almost 1,500 HIV positive individuals have received drugs, food parcels to enable them to take their medication and care from trained caregivers.

A total of 25 Farmers' Associations have been created so far, and are benefiting approximately 7,500 farmers. These associations provide an informal platform for farmers to share knowledge and improve their practices.

Monday March 7, 2016

Prayer

God, you call us to love you and to love one another. You call us to serve our brothers and sisters with love and without judgment. You call us to be your church. We praise your name for giving us the example of the Diocese of Bujumbura, who daily celebrate these calls to ministry through their actions. We ask you to bless your church; we ask you to bless their service to one another, we ask you to bless their love for you.

Prayer for Action

Healing God, we rely so heavily on others as we make our food choices, unaware of how much our food choices impact climate change. Turn the hearts of your church that we might realize how what we put on our plates connects with the health of our neighbours, our world and ourselves. We ask your help in making better choices, and learning from our wise and experienced partners. Help us to see the benefits of ecological and organic food production methods: preserved bio-diversity, improved health, improved food security, stronger communities, reduced fossil fuel dependency, more resilient food systems. May this healing nourish us all, in body and in spirit.

Prayer for Giving

Holy God, you have called us to be your church. We delight in the opportunity and we ask your help for the task. May we understand that church is not a destination, but a journey for the faithful. May we stay focused, during our journey, on the wisdom of God rather than the wisdom of humankind. May we support the church and its priorities, specifically your commands to feed the hungry, love the lonely, and care for the sick. May we be brave enough to answer our call to be your church; through our prayers, our actions and our gifts.

Tuesday March 8, 2016

Prayer

Holy God, we give you thanks for all who serve you. Especially, we pray for The Right Reverend Eraste Bigirimana, Bishop of the Diocese of Bujumbura and for all the people of that diocese. We give you thanks for those who assist in the delivery of food aid in times of political and social conflict. We give you thanks for the people who helped to reestablish transportation options after the 2013 fire that devastated the city's central market and food distribution routes. We give you thanks for all who use their authority to improve food security in the lives of Bujumbura's many citizens.

Prayer for Action

We pray for all whose lives have been negatively impacted by the disruption in political authority in Burundi. We pray for those who have fled insecurity and violence, becoming internally displaced or refugees in different countries. We are aware of how this situation affects, among other things, water safety and access to food. We ask God to comfort those who are grieving, to support those who are most vulnerable, to empower those who are taking authority to do the best for all people, rural and urban.

May we be truly thankful for stable government in our own lives, where our daily bread is not threatened by uncertain authority.

Prayer for Giving

Gracious God, we give you thanks for partnerships. We give you thanks for the support of our Canadian government to support the ministry of PWRDF and the Diocese of Bujumbura. We celebrate your ultimate authority over all of your people and we give thanks for the faithful who have authority here on earth. May the gratitude of our hearts be echoed in our support to those who govern such beneficial programs.

Wednesday March 9, 2016

Prayer

Wondrous Creator, your world is a delight of great variety. We give you great thanks for the diversity of colour, texture, form, scent, sound and taste you have provided. We praise you for these gifts and for the opportunity to use diversity for our benefit. We give thanks for the diversity of crops in Bujumbura, for the way they give not only aesthetic pleasure to the people but also work together to control pests, to increase nutrition and food security. God of great wonders, God of great variety, we thank you in many ways.

Prayer for Action

God of patience, we journey so quickly through your world; we expect immediate results and often in our impatience make illadvised decisions. Help us this week as we journey, loving God, to learn how our impatience is harming us. May we discover how our food is grown, processed and delivered; may we learn what processes are used in our water treatment and delivery systems; may we come to know if/which harmful chemicals are used in our communities.

For the sake of your world, may this knowledge inspire us to better ways of living.

May we be like the people in the Diocese of Bujumbura, sharing our knowledge and improving our practices.

Prayer for Giving

For the water which will, with time, purify itself through the hydrosystem;

For the soil, which houses a quarter of the Earth's bio-diversity;

For the air, the venue through which we directly coexist with the plants;

For the right use and conservation of these elements, that we and future generations might access them with health, may our gifts support your will.

Thursday March 10, 2016

Prayer

God, we hold before you the people in the Diocese of Bujumbura. We ask your blessings on them as they coordinate their efforts to share knowledge with one another; to preserve and conserve their lands; to learn and relearn holistic health practices. Bless their gardens and markets, as they increase nutrition, health and food security for the entire community.

Prayer for Action

As we complain about our stuffy noses, we give thanks for the loved one who brought us hot soup.

As we complain about the cost of medication, we give thanks for the neighbour who brought it to us from the drugstore.

As we complain about the long wait in line at the grocery store, we give thanks that so many in our community can afford to eat.

As we complain about our own situations, we give thanks for communities like those in Bujumbura, where members of a community care enough about one another to take care of one another.

Prayer for Giving

God of all people, help us to build community. Help us to learn from our partners in Bujumbura; help us to go into the world seeking ways to build community. May we recognize opportunities to be of service in your world; may the works of our hands echo the prayers of our hearts. May our ministries reflect our love for you. May we be rich in good works, ready to give and willing to share.

Friday March 11, 2016

Prayer

Holy God, we pray for those in need. We pray for those who have gone hungry or who have filled their stomachs with non-food items to stave off hunger pains. We pray for those who have eaten, but whose meals have not been balanced or nutritious. We pray for those who are unhealthy, who have not been able to take medications without food they cannot afford. We pray for those whose food is making them ill, by exposure to improper sanitation or harmful chemicals.

We give thanks for the work of those in the Diocese of Bujumbura, who strive to see that the numbers of people who are in need are ever decreasing; may their work give glory to you.

Prayer for Action

Creator of all, open our eyes to see the needs of others who are before us. Open our ears to hear the cries of those who are suffering. Open our hands to feel the violence perpetually exercised against your beloved.

Open our minds to see that the earth is in need of our loving care.

Creator of all; may we see your creation healing from the scars we have put upon her. May we hear of regrowth in places that have been left abandoned.

May we feel a peaceful coexistence with all of your creatures.

May our minds direct our actions to delight in the sacred earth.

Prayer for Giving

Gracious God, there are so many gifts we share, that no one should be found wanting; may we support those who protect these gifts:

The water; rain falling freely from the sky, streams coursing lazily through our communities, lakes hosting fish and sea creatures.

The air; the breath of God that connects and energizes all living beings.

The land; living soil that replenishes and nourishes and sustains us all.

And above all, our faith in you; the promise of abundance, the reality of having nothing yet possessing all things.

Saturday March 12, 2016

Prayer

Gracious God, in a situation that could focus on death, we give thanks for the focus on life, in your church in Bujumbura. We praise your name as you journey with the people there to overcome illness, insecurity and hunger. May the gifts of knowledge and skill continue to grow and flourish, may the desperation of disease and death continue to dissipate.

Prayer for Action

Gracious God, we thank you for the creative Spirit that invites us to challenge restrictions that limit justice. We thank you for the opportunity to dwell within that Spirit, that we might challenge those things which destroy the planet you have given to us to care for. We ask forgiveness for the deaths we cause, directly and indirectly, by the overuse of harsh chemicals; for the inappropriate use of pesticides and herbicides based on our lack of knowledge; for the ignorance of the effects of these products on our lives and the lives of those we love.

Prayer for Giving

God of healing, we pray for those areas of your world that have died by human influence.

For the lands hyper-salinated by the tsunamis, worsened by climate change; for the species of plants made extinct by careless overuse; for the soils eroded by industrial overcutting; for aquatic systems poisoned by industry; and for the food that will never grow there again. May our prayers encourage us to assist those who live in these places, who work in these places, who eat in and from these places; that they might see life reemerge in these places.

Sunday March 13, 2016

AGENCY: When people have the ability to influence policy and processes that affect their lives

In the Philippines, PWRDF partners group together to form cluster organizations. The Visayas Cluster is made up of five People's Organizations, one of which is the Farmers Development Centre (FARDEC). The cluster members build the capacities of peasants to increase food security, defend human rights and respond to disaster relief.

FARDEC works with 200 People's Organizations (POs) directly reaching out to almost 9,000 individuals. FARDEC trains the organization's members in leadership, organizational management, governance, gender rights, agrarian reform laws/ policies, conflict management, advocacy and more. In collaboration with the POs, FARDEC also operates a Palay (rice) mill as a socio-economic enterprise, where small farmers mill their rice at comparable prices, but where they, and not a large corporation, retain the financial benefit. FARDEC People's Organizations, farmers, and other members promote sustainable agriculture techniques and offer legal assistance to POs facing agrarian cases.

Monday March 14, 2016

Prayer

God of power and might, we come as your children to be your church. Let us draw near to you with a true heart in full assurance of faith. We give you thanks that you call us together, in worship and in ministry. We give you thanks for the work of your church in the Philippines, as FARDEC members offer leadership and influence in matters of food security. We ask you to pour your blessings upon them as they pour blessings upon all people.

Prayer for Action

O source of Holy Wisdom, we ask you to fill us with the knowledge of your will. Inspire us to enact your will at all times; to faithfully discern ways to engage with policies and processes that affect our food systems. May we learn about the control of our own food systems, that we may engage in decision making discussions with knowledge and wise reflection. May we recognize that the lack of volatility in our own food systems is a gift, may we always be mindful of those who do not have such agency.

Prayer for Giving

God of justice, you have shown your church what is good for us; to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with you. May we respond humbly to these requirements, as individuals and as your church. Forgive us our greed, our arrogance, our selfishness; acknowledge our repentance, our work for justice, our journey with partners to attain food agency.

Tuesday March 15, 2016

Prayer

We give thanks for FARDEC, which for more than 25 years has served as a regional support mechanism for the farmers in Central Visayas, Philippines. We thank you for the leadership of Patrick Torres, Executive Director. Guide his heart, O God, and the hearts of all of the FARDEC staff, to continue to be an instrument of the hope and community that benefits these farmers.

Prayer for Action

We give you thanks, loving God, for the gift of agency that the leadership of FARDEC shares with the people of the Central Visayas. We ask you to continue to bless their use of radio and mass media to educate and empower peasant farmers; we ask you to bless their tireless advocacy for those who cannot speak for themselves, refusing to be silenced even when under threat.

We give you thanks, loving God, for the tools which we take for granted and use for entertainment to be repurposed for educational means to offer encouragement to those who need it most.

Prayer for Giving

We give thanks for the leadership of FARDEC, who strive to live out their mission "to complement and strengthen the collective efforts of the peasantry in Central Visayas, to enhance their capacity to work together, and enjoin middle sectors in society to support their struggle in liberating themselves from agrarian bondage and poverty."

We ask you to bless their mission, their creativity, their leadership. We ask you to help us support their ministry to the people in the Philippines.

Wednesday March 16, 2016

Prayer

Holy God, we celebrate your world, which is here for all to share. We ask you to bless all those who serve one another and the land. We ask your forgiveness when we abuse the land and one another. Help us to see the error of our ways; help us to change to empower and encourage the intended symbiotic relationship of your people and your world. May our work, like the work of FARDEC partners, support just care for all of your creation.

Prayer for Action

Cleanse our hearts, loving God, to see the world as it truly is, not as we would make it. May we humble ourselves to know that we are arrogant to speak of owning land, which will outlive us all. Help us to respect the land as a grace that must be nurtured; help us to see land as sacred and beloved. Help us to act as a part of the sacred world, knowing that what we do to the land we do to ourselves. May we put on tender mercies, kindness and humility.

Prayer for Giving

Transform us, O God, that we might work together with you and all your creation. May we come to you as individuals expectantly waiting to be changed by your holy work.

Accept our open hearts, our eager minds, our humble voices. Accept our willingness to serve, to engage, to believe. Accept the offering of our work, our fellowship, our community.

As we take so much from the world, may we also give back to the world. Accept what we have to contribute, as we accept what every created being has to contribute. Accept our commitment to a just, healthy and peaceful world.

1. Inspired by Philippine activist Macli-Ing Dulag

Thursday March 17, 2016

Prayer

We celebrate the development of grassroots organizations that could not exist without commitment to community. We give thanks that FARDEC has worked on building and supporting communities in the Philippines, working for genuine agrarian reform and sustainable rural development. We pray for the farmers, scientists, researchers, people's organizations, civil society organizations and all who offer their work to improve food agency for communities around the world.

Prayer for Action

Gracious God, help me to know and love the community of people who work for the food that I eat. I pray for those who directly grow and produce my food; I pray for those who advocate for what chemicals are used; I pray for those who bring me the best foods when they are in season; I pray for those who also care for where my food is coming from; I pray for those who are passionate about why they work in the food system; I pray for those who are meticulous about how food is brought to my plate.

Gracious God, help me to know and love the community of people who work for the food that I eat.

Prayer for Giving

We pray for the communities who advocate for increased control over food systems; may God bless their efforts that support local innovative solutions to the globally interconnected threats to food security.

May we give generously to support those who are engaged with these communities, building trust, camaraderie and strong integrated systems.

March 47

Friday March 18, 2016

Prayer

We hold in prayer those whose water source has been poisoned upstream;

those who have been displaced from their land by conflict;

those whose air has been polluted by nearby factories;

those whose seeds or animals have been afflicted by external forces;

those whose livelihoods have been destroyed by legal disputes with faceless corporations;

those whose lives are being irreparably destroyed by the impacts of climate change;

those who have found themselves in need due to things over which they have no control;

those who help to support those in need to regain control over their livelihoods and lives.

Prayer for Action

God of heaven and earth, we celebrate the many gifts that we take for granted: clean air, viable soil, potable water, secure shelter, our very lives that come from you. We give thanks for those who have ensured that these good things are available to us. May we limit our lamentations over what we want but do not have; may we truly delight in the abundance that overflows in our lives.

Prayer for Giving

We give thanks for the delicate climate that allows life to continue on this planet. We acknowledge how our actions are causing climate change, threatening the most vulnerable of your children. We pray for those who are searching for new ways to justly live on Earth and that their work will inspire us to adapt our lives. We support those who advocate for food justice, we support those whose ministry is to empower agency, looking out for the interests of others.

Saturday March 19, 2016

Prayer

God of comfort, we pray for the people of the Philippines who advocate for a just society. We give thanks for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice as defenders of land rights, farmers' rights, human rights. Comfort their families and friends; strengthen all who work for justice and peace amid a culture of fear and death.²

Prayer for Action

God of redemption, we thank you for those who have lived full lives and those who are departed. We thank you for those whose life's work for justice has been fruitful, not just for themselves but also for others. May we recognize those who continue to labour among us, esteeming them highly for their work's sake.

Prayer for Giving

God of plenty, we ask your forgiveness.

We have been apathetic, disconnecting ourselves from the land and from one another.

We have been selfish, undervaluing food and all those who produce and prepare it.

We have been wasteful with our food, our use of land, our abundance.

We have been ignorant, not hearing the realities of food insecurity around the world.

We have been proud, presuming all food systems to be sustainable.

We have been negligent, of our need to work for food security and sovereignty.

God of plenty, we ask your forgiveness.

2. The Philippines is one of five countries where land rights defenders are most frequently killed, according to the annual report released by the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in 2014.

Help us to care for others and ourselves, celebrating the connection between what nourishes our bodies and what nourishes our souls. Help us to see that "Every grain of rice is a peasant giving life to the world." Help us to live and conduct ourselves in a manner that is worthy of you.

Sunday March 20, 2016

LOOKING AHEAD: Seeds for the Future

In Sri Lanka, PWRDF partner Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR) coordinates with hundreds of civil society organizations and farmer networks, developing and educating on alternative sustainable farming practices. They have organized seed banks, have become seed sovereign and advocate for food security. Thousands of farmers are now empowered to influence policy makers to develop and adapt policies that protect small scale farmers' rights and promote regenerative food production systems.

MONLAR helps to establish and support community leaders, who address and educate on issues of farmers' rights, land reform, climate change adaptation, soil conservation, ecofriendly practices, water collection and distribution, seed preservation, gender rights and regenerative agriculture. Furthermore, MONLAR works to develop a positive working relationship with the governmental agricultural departments, whose directors are becoming convinced of the importance of ecological agriculture policies and practices.

MONLAR's long partnership with local farmers does not expect immediate results, but supports long-term sustained change.

^{3.} FARDEC Facebook page; posted 17 Dec 2014.

Monday March 21, 2016

Prayer

Holy God, we enter this final week of our Lenten journey with shouts of joy and waving palms; doing all that we can to aid Jesus' triumphant journey into the city of your people. As this journey quickly changes to a dark and lonely road, we see times in our lives when we have gone away from your path. In times of difficulty and disappointment, we have left the company of the church, away from your call to ministry, away from you.

Holy God, we are humbled by your commitment to continue to journey with us, when we are celebrating and when we are rejecting you. Let our hearts be grateful for those who journey with us on our path; especially this day giving thanks for those at MONLAR who journey with farmers and small communities toward food security and sovereignty.

May we, your church, recognize the blessing of having — and being — companions on a journey.

Prayer for Action

We pray for those who have come together for food security. We give thanks for those who have committed to a journey as one body, organized for the greater good. We pray for those who have been willing to give up their selfishness, who have given up the need to be right all the time, who have relinquished a bit of personal control over their own situations. We give thanks that by this humility, networks and grassroots organizations are made stronger.

May we give thanks for those in our life who have remained committed to a cause that helps to build up God's people. May we give thanks for those who have been willing to celebrate communal growth over personal gain.

May we become these people in our homes, in our communities, in our church.

Prayer for Giving

God of nourishment, you give your church bread for the journey. You have shown your church how many may be fed when we are willing to share. You have provided your church every good thing, more than we can ask or imagine, and invite us to keep most of it. You also, thankfully, gift us with opportunity to share of our excess.

May we be faithful to your gifts by acting as the church you call us to be. May we be supportive of those who work for the betterment of all; may we celebrate the small farmers who form the mainstay of rural economies; may we be nourished in the act of nourishing others.

Tuesday March 22, 2016

Prayer

God of the people, we give you thanks for the many people in authority in PWRDF partner organization MONLAR. We give thanks for their commitment to journeying with people in need today and working to eliminate their need in the future. We celebrate their success stories and their shift from seed security to seed sovereignty. Bless the leaders of MONLAR, that they might remain vibrant and beneficial to your people.

Prayer for Action

We give thanks to the Lord:

For local leadership and community organizers;

For civil society organizations and farmers' networks;

For seed bank coordinators;

For environmental educators;

For communities that come together around issues of food security;

We give thanks to the Lord.

Prayer for Giving

Generous Lover of the world, we give thanks that you have poured out your Spirit upon those in authority at MONLAR. We give you thanks for the young who have seen visions of a new world, for the dreams of a better community.

Generous Lover of the world, we ask that we too might be inspired to support MONLAR's work towards food security; may we empower their continued efforts to promote justice for generations to come.

Wednesday March 23, 2016

Prayer

Holy God, we give you thanks for MONLAR and their commitment to the earth of the present and of the future. May we learn from their interdisciplinary care for your creation; knowing that the health of the world requires attention to all aspects of the natural world, as well as politics, commerce, education, and many other disciplines. May we learn to appreciate the delicate balance and to take care of it. May we be wise enough to learn to not destroy nature; may we be humble enough to realize that we do not know how to mend a broken Earth.

Prayer for Action

Healing God, we ask that we might consider the future use of our land; the land we leave for our children and our children's children. May our actions today reflect the lessons learned from MONLAR, that our use of the land does not destroy nature's capacity to regenerate itself. Assist us as we consider options for the land that sustains us and how it is controlled. May we learn about, embrace, and demand from others such practices as will reduce soil erosion, recycle organic matter, diversify crops and avoid harmful chemicals. May we ensure that the physical world of the future will be in such condition as to sustain the families of the future.

Prayer for Giving

Constant God, we are a fickle culture, casually changing our loyalties, interests and affections. Help us to become a more stable people, committing our ministries to be a more reliable society. May we commit ourselves to the conservation and preservation of the land, water and the air that sustain us. May we commit to the good care of your creation today, so that all who journey into the future may benefit from all you offer us. Direct our journey to find and support people and programs that care for the earth, as we benefit from the Earth's care for us.

Thursday March 24, 2016

Prayer

Lord, we celebrate today your lesson of servant leadership in the community. In washing your friends' feet, you showed your disciples how great potential can be found in the smallest of experiences. So too, the greatest potential of growth can be found in the smallest of seeds. We give thanks for those who consider the community's greater good and faithfully serve through action.

We ask you to bless the service and ministry of MONLAR, as they plant seeds of hope for the future. May they continue to educate and empower local farmers; may they be strengthened as they boldly speak out against politicians and corporations who would remove or reduce the rights of farmers.

May we all be your disciples, receiving your gifts, answering your call to continue the great work of servant leadership in our communities.

Prayer for Action

We hold in prayer those who have helped build stronger communities, who have planted seeds of hope and growth within the hearts and minds of the people. We celebrate those who have sacrificed their lives that others may flourish.

We ask you to help us see opportunities in our lives where we might encourage growth and support for our communities, for our farmers, for our families, for ourselves.

Prayer for Giving

On this night, our Lord and Saviour sat at supper with his friends. On this night, Jesus celebrated community above all else. On this night, Jesus instructed his followers to love and serve one another. He spoke of the present; he spoke of the future.

On this Holy night, loving God, may we hear these words anew. Fill our ears with the voices of our community; open our eyes to the call of ministry in our midst; humble our hearts to support those who support others.

Good Friday March 25, 2016

Prayer

On this dark day, we pray for those times when we have sat in darkness. We ask forgiveness for the times we have chosen what is popular over what is faithful; we ask forgiveness for the times our selfish overindulgences have meant another will be in need.

We hold in prayer all those who suffer at our hands; we ask you to bless those whose suffering is alleviated at the hands of others. For the many workers of MONLAR, bringing health and wholeness to thousands, we ask your blessing.

Prayer for Action

May God forgive us all our sins that we have committed against God, against God's people, against God's world, against God's church.

Lord God, have mercy upon us, we pray with penitent hearts. May we be restored to spiritual health and wholeness, may we return to the seed-like potential you have given to each of us in our faith.

Prayer for Giving

With contrite hearts, we come to God asking forgiveness:

For the times our actions have broken our baptismal vows;

For the times our seeds of growth have been cast on barren soil;

For the times we have polluted the earth;

For the times we have denied the promise of life;

For the times we have allowed death;

For the times we have depleted the sources of nourishment for the future.

We come with contrite hearts; we come bearing our own cross; we come to beg forgiveness. May our support of life-giving programs help to bring new life to our hearts.

Saturday March 26, 2016

Prayer

God of life, we hold before you all those who have departed this life having worked to improve the conditions of their brothers and sisters. We give you thanks for the life and witness of people like Sarath Fernando, founder and former convener of MONLAR, whose life and witness continues to motivate and empower today. May we be thankful and encouraged by him, as he wrote "I have now come close to the end of my journey but the journey is not yet over, others will continue. Learning from my mistakes and encouraged by whatever successes, finding their own way ... And I will not die because my dreams and efforts will not die."

Prayer for Action

Holy God, as you lay lifeless in your tomb, we pray for seeds laying lifeless in the ground. We lament the loss of life by genetically modified 'terminator' and 'suicide' seeds. We despair for the corporate control of seeds, the basis for our nourishment. We grieve the commodification of food systems.

Yet, Holy one, with you all things are possible; we are a people who live in hope.

This day, we wait; we mourn; we pray.

Holy God, as we await your resurrection, we pray for those coming back to life; for seeds capable of new birth, for communities supporting seed banks, for organizations celebrating seed sovereignty.

4. Sunday Times; http://www.sundaytimes.lk/140928/columns/sarath-atireless-fighter-for-farmers-rights-120031.html

Holy God, with you all things are possible. We are a people who live in hope. May we transform our prayers for abundant life into a tangible and present reality, an expression of the abundant life you offer.

Prayer for Giving

Living God, we wait this last day of Lent for the resurrection of your Son; we know that soon we will be caught up in the great feast of the Easter season. We ask you, loving God, that in our times of feast we might think of the future. May what we have learned this Lent inspire us to continue to question our own food systems. May what we have supported this Lent continue to be of meaning to us all. May what we have prayed this Lent encourage us to pray, act and give. May we truly continue our journey into the future, believing that another world is possible; participating in whatever way to make that possibility come to life.

PWRDF is grateful to

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