



# Roots & Wings

January 2008

Volume 7

Issue 5

A publication of the Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Life Committee

## *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

This beatitude refers to the yearning to love God and others, and the satisfaction and happiness of living according to God's will. When we hunger and thirst for righteousness, we are blessed by the desire to know God and to live a good and holy life. Christ promises that we will find Him and the happiness of His kingdom.

We all desire happiness, and this beatitude focuses on our spiritual appetites and steers us away from the desire for money, popularity and power. St. Augustine links this beatitude to the gift of fortitude. We need fortitude to free ourselves from loving material things so we can be free to love God more completely.

This beatitude counters the sin of sloth - indifference about God and His offer to eternal life. It is a type of spiritual death that finds no joy in God and His promise of the

Kingdom. It is easy to commit the sin of sloth by getting so caught up in material things or so busy we forget to reflect on God (Kreeft, 1992).



Matthew 5:6

We are blessed by the desire for righteousness because it leads us to God's love. To desire righteousness means to want to do the right thing or to be just. We can do this by reaching out to the poor, the lonely, and the vulnerable. Through our generosity, compassion and love toward others, we find God and His Kingdom, satisfying our hunger for true goodness and God's love.

By: Laurie Liesen

Sources:

*The Ladder of the Beatitudes* by Jim Forest

*Back to Virtue* by Peter Kreeft

### **Catholic Schools Week**

IJP and Catholic Schools across the nation will celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 27 - February 2. The theme - "Catholic Schools Light the Way", highlights the spiritual foundation of Catholic schools, for we are on



"The Way," a biblical term used to describe those who follow Jesus as disciples. During this week, we honor the leadership Catholic Schools provide to our nation, producing graduates who light the way to a brighter future for all. The slogan, "Catholic Schools Light the Way,"

reminds us that we are called to

"light the way" to the kingdom for others even as we walk "the way" of discipleship and grow in faith ourselves.

(www.ncea.org)

### **Dwell in my Love**

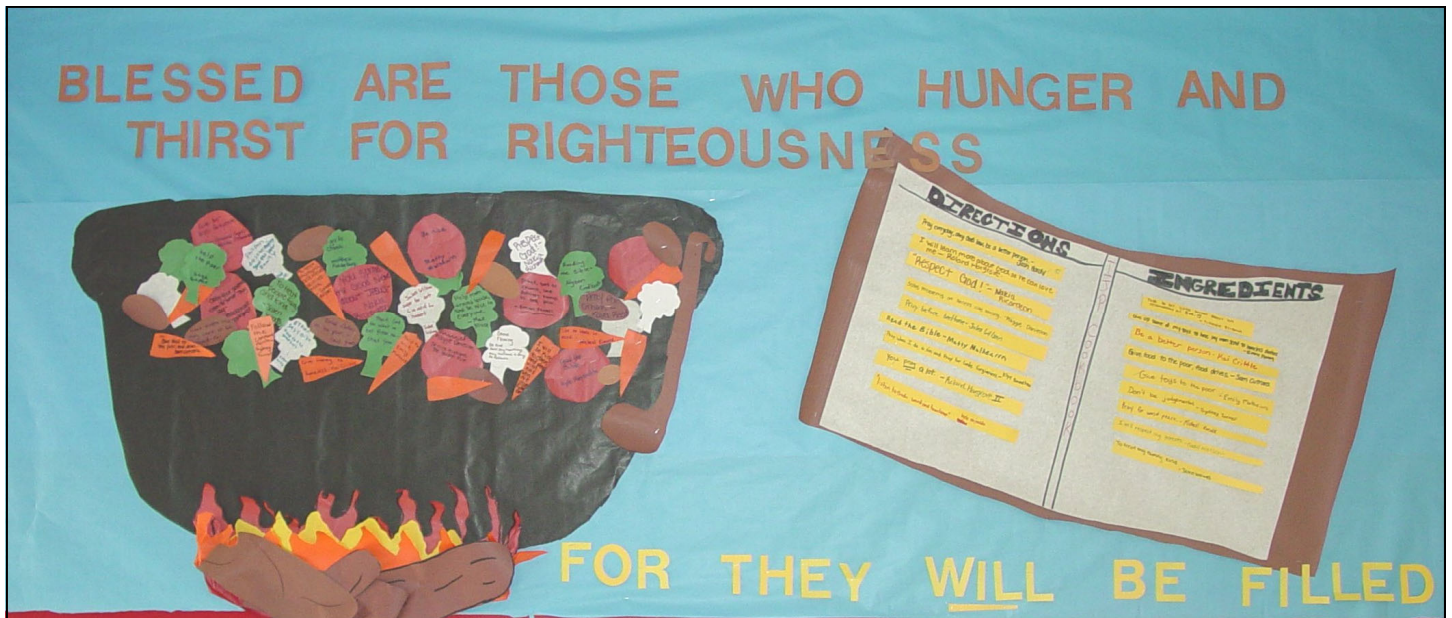
Cardinal George wrote a powerful and challenging pastoral letter entitled "Dwell in My Love", which discusses various aspects of racism.

On Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a "Dwell in My Love Forum" at IJP. This forum will feature the well known Storyteller, Susan O'Halloran. Her stories have delighted and respectfully challenged audiences for years.

Race is a topic we need to continue to discuss. It doesn't mean there is a problem but like any relationship, communication is the key. This Forum is especially timely with the featuring of the Beatitude "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be satisfied."

**Volunteers are needed to help with publicity and to help with refreshments on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> since all of**

**Vicariate VI is invited.** If you want to volunteer, contact Deacon George (799-1389). Even if you can't volunteer, please plan to attend this special and important event.



***“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”***

Hungry IJP students need look no further than their own cafeteria to find out how to be filled with a close relationship with Christ. Recently, Mrs. Bartelt’s 7th grade LA class paid a visit to Mrs. Johnson’s 4th grade class and talked about this month’s Beatitude.

All of us know what it feels like to be hungry. Our stomachs grumble and our minds think about how good it will taste to fill ourselves with delicious food. But what about our longing for a relationship with the Lord? How do we go about satisfying that hunger?

Mrs. Johnson’s 4th graders sure provided us with some great “recipes”! Please visit the IJP cafeteria and see ‘what’s cookin’! You’re sure to find the ‘ingredients’ for the way to seek God’s love.

## Prayer for the Dignity of Human Life

Lord and giver of all life,  
 help us to value each person, created in love by you.  
 In your mercy, guide and  
 assist our efforts  
 to promote the dignity and  
 value of all human life,  
 born and unborn.  
 We ask this through  
 Christ our Lord.

Amen.



## A Prayer for Our School

God, our Father and Creator, be with us in our school.

Help us to treasure your gift of life  
 and treat one another with care.

Let us always remember that we are all created in  
 your image.

Come, Lord Jesus, and be with us in our school.

Guide our teachers,  
 guide our parents,  
 and lead our students  
 to recognize you in all people.

Come, Holy Spirit, and be with us in our school.

Give us a vision for the future,  
 and the determination for shaping a faith-filled  
 future.

Amen.

“There are two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots, the other wings.”

Hodding Carter II