Our Faith and Economic Realities: What is Jesus Asking of Us?

Fr. Rick Malloy, S.J., Ph.D.

In the next few weeks, as we near the end of this liturgical Year A, we will hear the great challenges to Love and do Justice that appear in the final Chapters of Matthew’s Gospel. “The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” (Matt 23:11-12). “And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ ” (Matt 25: 40).

What moves in our hearts and minds when we hear these words of Jesus and then ponder the economic realities of our age?

On Oct 16 2011, Nick Kristof reported in the New York Times that:

* The 400 wealthiest Americans have a greater combined net worth than the bottom 150 million Americans.
* The top 1 percent of Americans possess more wealth than the entire bottom 90 percent.
* In the Bush expansion from 2002 to 2007, 65 percent of economic gains went to the richest 1 percent.

Here are some other factoids to get us thinking.

* 22% of children in America live in poverty.
* 15.1% of Americans live in poverty. That’s 46.2 million people.
* According to the U.S. Government, the poverty line is $22,314 for a family of four.
* Business Week noted: “The Pew Research Center said its recent polling shows that a majority of Americans -- for the first time in 15 years of being surveyed on the question -- oppose more government spending to help the poor. The deep budget cuts by the U.S. House earlier this year included programs that helped the poor.”
* Globally, 80% of Planet earth lives on less than $10 a day.
* Across our planet, 21,000 children die each day from preventable causes.

Some Selections from Catholic Social Teaching:

“There also exist sinful inequalities that affect millions of men and women. These are in open contradiction of the Gospel” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1938).

“The equal dignity of human persons requires the effort to reduce excessive social and economic inequalities” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1947).

“The needs of the poor take priority over the desires of the rich; the rights of workers over the maximization of profits; the preservation of the environment over uncontrolled industrial expansion; the production to meet social needs over production for military purposes” (Economic Justice for All, #94)

“The way society responds to the needs of the poor through its public policies is the litmus test of its justice or injustice” (Economic Justice for All, #123).

“Those who are more influential because they have greater share of goods and common services should feel responsible for the weaker and be ready to share with them all they possess... the church feels called to take her stand beside the poor, to discern the justice of their requests and to help satisfy them, without losing sight of the good of groups in the context of the common good” (On Social Concern, #39).
“Today our prime educational objective must be to form men-and-women-for-others; men and women who will live not for themselves but for God and his Christ - for the God-man who lived and died for all the world; men and women who cannot even conceive of love of God which does not include love for the least of their neighbors; men and women completely convinced that love of God which does not issue in justice for others is a farce.”

Pedro Arrupe, S.J., 28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Valencia, Spain, 1973

The Community Outreach Office provides information on Volunteer Opportunities for individuals, groups, clubs, and residence hall floors. Our office is located in The DeNaples Center, Room 205B, and our webpage is www.scranton.edu/volunteers. We are also on Facebook! Like Us!

Check out our new webpage at www.scranton.edu/volunteers for a complete list of current opportunities, agency information, upcoming events and more!

APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING BREAK SERVICE TRIPS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICE, DENAPLES 205B NOW!
They are due, completed, by Wednesday October 26th by 4pm


Lackawanna County Department of Parks & Recreation: Kids Ride for Relief family fun day at McDade Park, Scranton, needs volunteers to monitor the bounce house, help with trail rides and other kids activities. Sunday October 23 from 10am-4pm. Contact Bill Davis at davisw@lackawannacounty.org to sign up or get more information.

Safe Trick or Treat: The Community Outreach Office needs student volunteers to act as escorts for children from local social service agencies to trick or treat in the Residence halls. Sunday October 30th 1-3pm. Sign up on our bulletin board in the student forum, DeNaples 2nd floor. Clubs can host a table in the DeNaples Ballroom as a service project from 1-3 with a craft, game or activity. Contact Mike Wiencek at wiencekm2@scranton.edu for club sign ups. Resident floors sign up to hand out candy as a floor program with Kerry Delaney at delaneyk2@scranton.edu

Turkey Bowl: Flag-Football Tournament: Get together a co-ed flag-football team for Saturday, November 12th 1pm-6pm for a tournament to raise money for the Thanksgiving Food Drive! Each team should have 7-10 players, and it will be $3 per person! Pick up a form in the Community Outreach Office, DeNaples 205B and return by November 4th! Come play a game you love for those in need!

Thanksgiving Food Drive: Help families experience a Thanksgiving dinner this year! The Community Outreach Office plans to make 150 baskets for families in need this holiday. They are seeking monetary donations and would greatly appreciate your help! Each basket costs $35 but any size donation is appreciated. Checks can be made out to the University of Scranton and sent campus to Community Outreach, TDC 205B. Volunteer food packers and delivery drivers (Sunday November 20) are needed as well….contact Dave Hopp at hoppd2@scranton.edu
Leaders for a Brighter Scranton

LBS is a program for students by students. What are the Jesuit ideals? What role do they play in your life? LBS will guide you in your search for these answers and provide you with a deeper understanding of what it truly means to be a leader rooted in the Jesuit tradition. The application process will be held during fall semester. The sessions will be held during spring semester.

Information sessions:
- Tues. 11/1 - 8 PM DeNaples Ballroom A
- Wed. 11/2 - 8 PM DeNaples 406
- Thurs. 11/3 - 3PM DeNaples 406

Post-Graduate Service Fair

Wednesday, November 17
5-7 pm
DeNaples Ballroom

How can YOU give back for a year or more after you graduate? Over 30 Agencies will be present to show you how:
- Jesuit Volunteer Corps
- Passionist Volunteers International
- MercyWorks
- Rostro de Cristo
- Christian Appalachian Project And MANY More!

Jesuit Volunteer Corps Recruiter

Are you looking to make a difference after graduation? Then the Jesuit Volunteer Corps could be right for you.

JVC is a global network offering men and women the opportunity to live in community and work for justice and peace. It sends volunteers for a year or more to live with and serve the poor and marginalized of the U.S. and developing countries.

JVC's East Coast Recruiter will be on the University of Scranton campus November 2-3. You can learn more about the program and ask questions by:
- visiting Emma at a table
- attending an information session at 7:00pm on Wednesday, November 2
- arranging a one-on-one meeting with Emma during her time on campus

For more information, please contact Emma Fabian at eastrecruiter@jesuitvolunteers.org.

The EXAMEN

Are you looking for some quiet time to spend with God?

Come spend 20 minutes in a reflective form of Ignatian Prayer....

Every Thursday at 9:45 PM in Sacred Heart Chapel

Please join us on November 3rd!

Mass of Remembrance

Thursday, November 10th at 4:40 PM in Madonna della Strada Chapel

Please join us as we remember in prayer the deceased family members, friends and loved ones of the students, faculty and staff of the University of Scranton. As part of the Mass, there will be a ritual reading of the names of those who have died since this time last year. If you have lost a loved one and would like their name included during the Mass please e-mail Amy at hoegenaz@scranton.edu

Silent Retreats

These retreats, rooted in Ignatian Spirituality, are an opportunity to enter into silence and create space for God in your life.

3 Day Silent Retreat - November 18th -20th
Chapman Lake

Retreat begins Friday at 5:00 pm and concludes Sunday afternoon. Cost is $20. Register in University Ministries. Deadline for registration is November 14th.

5 Day Silent Retreat - January 24-28, 2012
Chapman Lake

Retreat begins Tuesday afternoon and concludes Saturday afternoon. Cost is $40.00 Register in University Ministries. Deadline for registration is December 2.

Questions? Contact Sister Carol Tropiano at tropianoc2@scranton.edu
Weekly Collection

This week’s collection will be given to St. Francis Soup Kitchen - local soup kitchen reaching those most in need.

Last week’s collection to the Kolvent Foundation was $364.

Sunday Mass Presiders

Sunday, October 30
11:00 AM: Fr. Mohr, SJ
7:00 PM: Fr. McKinney, SJ
9:30 PM: Fr. Sable, SJ

Tuesday, November 1 - All Saints Day
12:05 PM & 4:40 PM

Sunday, November 6
11:00 AM: Fr. Roach, SJ
7:00 PM: Fr. Sweeney, SJ
9:30 PM: Fr. Mohr, SJ

Look What's New!

UPSCALE WEDNESDAYS!!

Wednesday Night Mass
9:45 PM
Madonna della Strada Chapel

Pause midweek to reflect and worship as we celebrate Eucharist and renew our Spirits.

All are welcome!

UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES, DeNaples Student Center 200
570-941-7419
www.scranton.edu/ministry