

HOLY WISDOM ICC COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



*"We are Holy Wisdom Inclusive Catholic Community.
We joyfully embrace and live the gospel message of Jesus
with deeply rooted love."*

Sunday, March 11, 2017 Second Week of Lent – Year A

March 9, 2017

Dear Friends,

I can hardly believe we are already moving into the second week of Lent and our 100-Day Retreat. May we be blessed individually and communally in this journey of transformation!

Two weeks ago we were delighted to welcome to Holy Wisdom, Olivia Doko, Bishop of the Western Region of Roman Catholic Women Priests. She presented a homiletics workshop to several of our folks from February 24 - 26 and stayed a few extra days to visit. (Thank you to Tom and Betty for over-the-top hospitality.) A wonderful and inspiring time was had by all and we look forward to the unfolding of abundant preaching gifts in our community.

On Ash Wednesday, Olivia and Kathleen co-presided at mass and, at our last mass, Olivia encouraged us to open ourselves to growth and change. During her homily, Olivia offered

us the questions below. I invite us to ponder them in light of our mission/vision statement:

We are Holy Wisdom Inclusive Catholic Community. We joyfully embrace and live the gospel message of Jesus with deeply rooted love.

1. Thinking back over the year in my individual life and ministry...
What was life-giving? What was not? In what specific ways might I need to grow and change?
2. Thinking back over the year in our Holy Wisdom community...
What was life-giving? What was not? In what specific ways might we need to grow and change as a community?
3. With whom or with what might I need to be reconciled for this growth to happen within myself and our Holy Wisdom community?

Those who were at mass on Feb. 25 went home with these questions in hand but I offer them to all of us to ponder during Lent.

During our last session with Joe McQuiston on February 19th, several of us shared aspects of our giftedness and received affirmation and gratitude for our offering of those gifts. It was a moment of celebration of who we are. The questions posed by Olivia, above, invite us to go deeper in our reflection of who we are and ask how we might grow and be transformed.

One of the distinctions Olivia made during her remarks at the preaching workshop is the difference between a good community and a great one. A good community is one in which those who are part of the community do not feel judged, but accepted, loved and cared for. I believe this is what we offer each other. Many have said they have never been in a church community or any community in which they feel as accepted and loved as they do in HW.

A great community though, is one in which this love and caring is extended to those outside the community in loving acts of justice and service. This happens some, but I believe we have potential to be even greater and hope this will be part of our discovery during our 100-Day Retreat this Lent and Easter.

During our community meeting, from 2 to 4 p.m. this Saturday before mass, we will have an opportunity to share on the first two of Olivia's questions, especially looking at specific ways might be called to grow and change as a community. This will not be a discussion per se, but an opportunity for us to listen prayerfully and carefully with each other and take in the wisdom each has to share.

I hope you will be with us for this meeting, and for our mass and potluck.

Blessings and love,
Diane

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Wisdom Book of Prayers

Our Holy Wisdom Book of Prayers contains the names of those we have been asked to pray for and remember during mass. It is carried to the altar at the beginning of each mass and all names inscribed in it are remembered with the prayers of the people.

The Book of Prayers will be on the welcome table before mass, where those attending may enter names and prayer requests. Anyone unable to attend may email requests to [Diane](#) or [Kathleen](#), who will then enter the names of your loved ones into the book.

If you wish to have prayers read aloud at mass, you may also send these requests to Diane or Kathleen. Your prayers will be read aloud at the next mass and also inscribed into the Book of Prayers.

Community Meetings

Our next Community Meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 11 at St. Benedict's. The agenda follows:

72 Hours
Attracting younger parishioners
Fun Activities
What is Life Giving? What is Not?
Guidelines for Sharing

HW Joins Interfaith Works

Great news! Holy Wisdom has been invited to join [Interfaith Works](#), a local association of faith communities whose mission furthers social justice and peace. You will see regular mention of IW in both our newsletter and on the [HW website](#).

SideWalk Fundraiser

SideWalk will host its annual fundraising gala, [Love for a Change 2017](#), at South Puget Sound Community College on Thursday, March 30 at 6 p.m. HWICC has reserved one table of 10 so far and would love to fill one more. Please consider attending this important event and helping our community end homelessness. Contact [Saima](#) to reserve your place at a HW table.

Community Kitchen

Our next scheduled date at Community Kitchen is Monday, April 3. Contact [Kathleen](#) if you would like to help cook or serve. We share cooking chores from 1:45 to 4:45 p.m., and serving and cleanup from 4:45 to 6:30 p.m. Any contributions of garden flowers and produce are most welcome and appreciated.

Articles of Interest

[Letter from Sr. Simone Campbell](#): A letter to young Catholic women on World Day of Social Justice 2017

Educational Opportunities

Care of Our Common Home. We know that all life on earth is profoundly interconnected. This accepted axiom burst into living heart-truth in my soul on the day I learned an astonishing effect of early morning birdsong. The ‘dawn chorus’ – that energetic, high-pitched singing unique to the earliest hours – causes the gas exchange pores on the underside of plant leaves to open wide. Moisture and nutrients are freely taken in from the air at that time. My mind was stunned: sound vibration – a particular frequency range of music – actually *interacts* with the life function of green plants! [More [here](#) and [here](#) .] In the next moment, my heart overflowed with wonder: dawn birdsong opens the plants to take in life-giving nurture, and both the song and the nourishment are carried by the air - the very breath of life in which we are all immersed. Streams of blessing weave between, among, and through every order of being on the planet - wheels within wheels of flowing Life. May we ever reverence this astonishing dance of Divine Wisdom we call the Earth.

*Oh, Earth beautiful, Oh, Earth beautiful,
We walk on your land,
Breathe your sweet air,
Drink your life waters,
We hold you in our hands ... We hold you in our hands.*
- [Earth Beautiful](#), by Amara Karuna

How Big is Your God Workshop. Workshops focusing on the book *How Big is Your God* will begin on March 12 and continue on March 19, March 26 and April 9. All meetings will take place at Tom and Betty's home. All spaces for this workshop are full but please let Betty know if you are interested in facilitating or joining an additional group.

Workshop at Lumen Christi ICC. Lumen Christi Inclusive Catholic Community in McMinnville OR is sponsoring a workshop with Michael and Maria Morwood on their recent book *Re-Envisioning the Second Half of Life*. It will be held on June 16 and 17. For more information, please contact Sandy DeMaster at sdemaster@gmail.com.

Service Opportunities

Socks for Drexel House. [Drexel House](#) is in constant need of men's and women's socks. You can help by bringing sock donations to mass and placing them in the basket by the gift table.

Funding Needed for SideWalk. [Sidewalk's](#) rapid rehousing project has been successful and now increased funding is needed to maintain progress. You can [donate here](#) to help end homelessness.

Blankets Needed for Interfaith Shelter. Blankets are needed for the [Interfaith Warming Center](#) downtown Olympia. Please take your donations directly to the shelter at 408 Olympia Avenue N.E.

Pasta and Rice for Food Bank. [Thurston County Food Bank](#) is in constant need of 1-3 pound bags of pasta and rice, along with no-cook items (e.g., sardines, ravioli, canned foods with a pull top). Please bring your gifts along to mass, or contact Jean at 786-8788 to offer your service.

SUMMARY OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Holy Wisdom Mass Dates. Saturdays March 11, March 25 and April 8, 5 p.m. at St. Benedict's, preceded by *Centering Prayer at 4 p.m.* and followed by potluck

Wednesday Centering Prayer/Meditation. Every Wednesday, 7 - 8 p.m., 2013 Bethel Street N.E., Olympia

Monday Contemplative Prayer at First Christian. Every Monday, noon – 1 p.m., in the library of First Christian Church, 701 Franklin Street S.E.

Next Community Meeting. Saturday March 11, 2 – 4 p.m. at St. Benedict's

How Big is Your God Workshop. Sundays March 12, March 19, March 26 and April 9 at Tom and Betty's home

SideWalk Fundraiser. Thursday March 30, 6 p.m. at South Puget Sound Community College

Next Community Kitchen. Monday April 3 at Olympia Salvation Army

Re-Envisioning the Second Half of Life Workshop. June 16-17 at Lumen Christi ICC, McMinnville OR

USEFUL HW INFORMATION

Centering Prayer Opportunities. Centering prayer sessions are held before every Holy Wisdom mass and mid-week at two other venues. Please refer to the Events Summary in this newsletter or visit [our web page](#) for details.

Fragrance-Free Community. Out of consideration for any chemically sensitive people among us, please refrain from using scented products when attending mass or other HW gatherings.

Sharing of Promotional Materials. HW members are welcome to display their own promotional materials on the kiosk table at the rear of church. Please collect your materials afterward, as anything left behind will be discarded.

Holy Wisdom Online. Visit [Holy Wisdom's website](#) and [our Facebook page](#) for more information on community events, involvements, opportunities or related news stories.

Share Your Photos. You are welcome to share your HW community photos for use on our website by emailing them in .jpeg format to [Diane](#) and [Kathleen](#), or directly to [Holy Wisdom](#).