

Feed My Sheep John 21:18

A Newsletter from the Hunger Task Force of the Southern Ohio Synod

January, 2010

Southern Ohio Synod Chosen as Malaria Initiative Pilot Site



The Rev. William McKee, Synod Staff

At its November meeting, the Southern Ohio Synod Council, upon the request of the synod's Hunger Task Force, approved an application to become a pilot synod for the **Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI)**. Our synod will join four others in the ELCA in pioneering this effort which eventually will include all 65 synods.

The pilot project was approved by the Churchwide Assembly in August 2009. LMI is a partnership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and

Lutheran World Relief. This effort will emphasize prayer, awareness, advocacy, and fundraising. The partners have established a goal of raising \$75 million over five years to combat malaria, a disease intensified by poverty. The ELCA's portion of the goal is \$20 million

LMI gifts from ELCA members and congregations will be received under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal. These donations are intended to supplement, not supplant, existing gifts to the Appeal. Disbursements to areas in need (primarily in Africa) will be coordinated by the Global Fund, a highly respected and unique global public/private partnership which is dedicated to attracting and disbursing resources to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Nearly one million people die annually due to malaria. Ninety percent of those deaths are in Africa. Tanzania, a focus area for LMI, experiences 60,000 to 80,000 such deaths annually. (The Southern Ohio Synod has a companion relationship with the East of Lake Victoria Diocese.) Pregnant women and children are especially vulnerable to the disease. Eighty-five percent of those who die are under five years of age. The economic ramifications of malaria are staggering. The disease costs Africa more than \$12 billion each year in gross domestic product. Malaria both intensifies poverty and is intensified by poverty.

Malaria is a preventable disease. It has not been a problem in the United States for sixty years. What is needed are resources to address the issue. Lives can be saved by something as simple as long-lasting insecticidal bed nets. LMI will include a "**Lutheran Nothing but Nets**" emphasis. Much more information will be forthcoming in 2010 as LMI is launched in the Southern Ohio Synod. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.



Dragonflies curb the mosquito population and serve as a symbol for malaria-containment efforts. (Photo by Hans Hillewaert)

David Creech Seminars Highlight LMI and *Taking Root*

At three seminars held during November 2009 in the Southern Ohio Synod, David Creech, ELCA Director of Hunger Education, introduced the LMI. Pastor Creech explained how the three Lutheran organizations, ELCA, LWR, LC-MS, were chosen by the **United Nations Foundation*** to receive \$4 million in seed money in its effort to combat this treatable and preventable disease. For generations, Lutherans have been a powerful force for change with their proven field strategies, experience, expertise, and faithful stewardship of resources. These organizations were exactly what the UNF needed to lead its outreach against malaria.



David Creech discusses *Taking Root* with seminar participants

Using visual aids and background material to illustrate his presentation, Pastor Creech emphasized the endless circle of poverty and disease and the fact that malaria kills more than a million people a year. Three quarters of those killed by malaria are pregnant women and children under the age of five in Africa. A child dies from malaria every thirty seconds. Presently, there is global momentum to contain the disease. Simple steps make a big difference: eliminating standing water, providing anti-malarial medications and insecticide treated bed nets,

residual domestic spraying, and education are all key elements in the fight against malaria. These are the elements which will be emphasized in the outreach programs of the Lutheran organizations as they strive to raise \$75 million over the next five years.

Introduction and discussion about the *Taking Root Hunger* curriculum for children and teens indicated that the materials are very adaptable within the various age groups. Participants were concerned, however, that teachers responsible for leading groups using these materials would need much more preparation time than the time it takes to use other materials, and in some cases would work against using this curriculum. However, all agreed the material is very useful for many different kinds of applications, and could be used in part, rather than in its entirety. Materials are available from Augsburg Fortress at www.augsburgfortress.org or call 800.328.1209.

* United Nations Foundation is an advocate for the UN and a platform for connecting people, ideas and resources to help the UN solve global problems. The UN Foundation has become the premier organization in helping the UN meet these challenges

Hunger Task Force Video Now Available

The Southern Ohio Synod Hunger Task Force has made their hunger awareness and action video, prepared by Pastor Jonathan Eilert and presented at the 2009 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly, available on the web. If you would like to share this video with your congregation, church council or if you haven't seen the video, you may view it and download it from the synod's website, where it is now available at www.southernohiosynod.org under *Ministries>Task Forces*. If a DVD is desired, contact Pastor Eilert at PJEilert@fuse.net.

People of the Southern Ohio Synod are doing great things every day to help the underprivileged in our communities and the world. Still, more work needs to be done. For ideas and inspiration on ending hunger and poverty, please contact [Pastor Henry Zorn](mailto:Henry.Zorn@fuse.net), chair of the Southern Ohio Synod Hunger Task Force, 513.474.4938.

17 SOS Ministries Receive 2010 Hunger Grants

Seventeen ministries in 9 cities of the Southern Ohio Synod were awarded Domestic Hunger Grants from the ELCA.

Those receiving grants were:

COLUMBUS

Community Kitchen

Housing

Faith Mission, Inc.

First English Lutheran Church

MAP Furniture Bank

Mid-Ohio Food Bank

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

BELLEFONTAINE

Logan County Homeless Shelter

Lutheran Community Services

LONDON

Ministry for Community

POMEROY

Meigs Cooperative Parish

CINCINNATI

Over-the-Rhine Community

Roselawn Lutheran Church

IRONTON

St. Paul Lutheran Church

PORTSMOUTH

First Lutheran Church

SPRINGFIELD

Interfaith Hospitality Network

WESTERVILLE

Westerville Area Resource Ministry

The 2011 Domestic Hunger Grant application can be obtained online beginning May 1, 2010.

You are encouraged to obtain a copy of the hunger grant application at

www.elca.org/domestichungergrants.

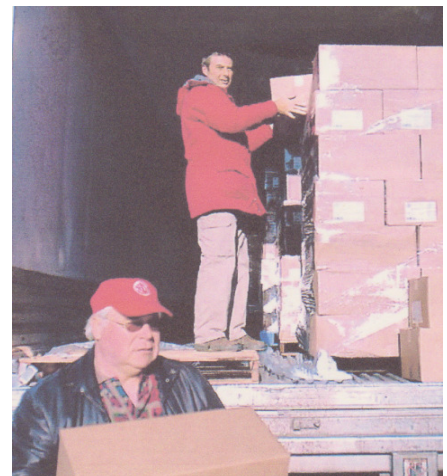
Organizations may submit one application per year. The online electronic application package is for one year of funding. An organization can be funded for up to three years, but must submit an application each of the subsequent years. Be sure to answer all questions in a complete and thorough manner. The **deadline is June 30th**. All application material must be **postmarked on or before June 30, 2010**. Application materials postmarked after the June 30th deadline will not be considered for funding in 2011.

Ms. Johnnie M. Thompson, Administrative Assistant for Poverty Ministries & Domestic Hunger Grants Program Unit for Church in Society, ELCA 800-638-3522 ext. 2693 E-mail: Johnnie.Thompson@elca.org

Congregations in Action

Christmas With Dignity has been an annual tradition at **St. Paul's, Ironton**, for six years, but 2009 was only the second year the program included giving food. Pastor David Ritchie reports that this past Christmas, 650 families received food boxes which included turkeys, beef patties, yam patties, mixed vegetables, chicken soup, Salisbury steak, green beans, potatoes, and pie. The food was provided to residents of Lawrence County by All Saints Lutheran Church in Worthington.

In the past, Christmas With Dignity included the distribution of toys and gifts, but with the economy the way it is, the need for food became very evident and almost overwhelming. The area of



Volunteers unload food boxes during Christmas With Dignity at St. Paul's, Ironton
The Ironton Tribune photo by Jessica St James

Southeastern Ohio has little going for it in the way of economic development, and jobs are scarce or non-existent'. "It's all over the board," cites Pastor Ritchie. "It's the single elderly, a lot of working families, and retirees who can't make it on a fixed income. Many families can only bring in a low income, even when two in the family are working for minimum wage."

People needing food were lined up long before the church doors opened waiting in the cold to receive the boxes they had signed up for earlier. Before the distribution began, Pastor Ritchie led the volunteers in prayer reminding them that helping others was directed by Jesus. Then he addressed the crowd waiting. "This is all about love," he told those in line. "We are all needy. Let us be thankful that those with resources are helping." Then the crowd filed in to have their names checked off the registration list before heading out to the truck where they received their boxes. Volunteers helped carry the boxes to recipients' cars.

While this Saturday giveaway was only at Christmas, since February 2009 there is a twice monthly pantry at St. Paul's, sponsored by Lutheran Social Services, when about 8000 pounds of food are given away each month on the second and fourth Thursdays.

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Pastor Mike Poole adds that last year the Amazing Grace Day Camp Task Force and LSS of Central and Southern Ohio began a partnership to provide the new LSS mobile food pantry at Amazing Grace Day Camp sites. Both ministries serve clients in the same areas. It seemed cost effective to partner in this endeavor. In 2009, the LSS mobile food pantry was able to make two trips during the Day Camps: to **Holy Trinity, Newark** and **St. Paul's, Ironton**. This partnership would like to add more trips to camps in 2010. Each trip costs approximately \$1000. This includes the cost of food, transportation, personnel, and equipment. If you would like to assist in supporting this ministry, contact LSS at 614.288.5200

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During the month of November 2009, **North Riverside Lutheran Church, Dayton**, offered their third annual hunger meal to raise funds for the ELCA World Hunger Fund. Pastor Monte Stevens states that this year the theme was "**Teddy Bears' Picnic**." The focus was on hunger issues as they related to children. The meal consisted of children's favorite foods: chicken tenders, mac and cheese, and of course, desserts. Children's toys were available to purchase so folks could do some early Christmas shopping. The church raised \$4221, which included Thrivent matching funds. North Riverdale has 273 baptized members and is on pace for raising \$25 per baptized member.

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"Our ministry ideas may be led by the Holy Spirit, but few are literally blown in," cites Pastor Joene Herr. At **Trinity, Lewisburg** their **Neighbor Night** began with the strong winds of Hurricane Ike. Lewisburg, like many communities in the Southern Ohio Synod, lost electrical power for about a week after Ike blew through, knocking down trees and power lines. Trinity's building still had power, so after a couple of days people began to bring in their defrosting food, cooked and shared it. By the end of the week a little community had formed – but as soon as power was restored it ended.

In March 2009, kicking around ideas of how to help in a community impacted by job loss and the economic downturn, someone remembered Ike's community meals and suggested starting a free community meal. Without much other planning or funds to provide, the free Neighbor Night meal began the following Wednesday with spaghetti dinner served to 29 people. Lalah, who has a passion for hunger ministry, said that since March the Neighbor Night has grown; each week 150 or more in the community join together for a free meal. Various groups have hosted the dinner, including a Boy Scout troop, the town council and the Wright State Women's Basketball team, who came complete with basketballs and autographs for the kids

Neighbor Night serves up more than just food. A community of sharing and caring has formed, in part because of Bill and his seating arrangements. Usually before a meal a number of tables and chairs are arranged and people end up sitting with people they know, often away from others. At Trinity, Bill only sets out tables and chairs as needed, 'forcing' people to sit with strangers. For example, one night a single father with three sons sat next to a man who lives in a local motel, who brought his 90 year old neighbor. Another time a couple came in, distraught over a pending bankruptcy. Because people had gotten to know each other, a Trinity member knew another couple at the meal who was on the recovering side of bankruptcy. She asked if they'd talk, they agreed, and gave encouragement to the distraught couple.

Lewisburg is a small community in western Ohio. Like many towns, its main street has storefronts closed and a struggling population. Yet, Trinity's Neighbor Night is offering food for the body and the soul.

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Rob Tomlinson, a member of **Christ The King Lutheran Church (CTK), Centerville**, reports that the congregation has recently begun a new ministry with an area organization named **The Castle**.

The Castle is a safe drop-in center for area adults who experience mental disorders. It is a place where trust and new friendships are formed and where living and social skills are fostered. The 400 member driven social center is also a stepping stone for people who want to be a productive part of the community. Included in their program is a daily hot nutritious lunch for each member. CTK is actively involved in the lunch program and has served meals on different occasions, including one during their Christmas party.

CTK members arrived early to prepare; they also provided a fun and enjoyable Christmas play for the members and their guests. After the play, everyone joined in the meal and social gathering, including a gift presentation by CTK's Women of the ELCA.

Rob states that Christ the King looks forward to supplying and serving another meal soon as they continue to grow in friendship with their Brothers and Sisters in Christ at The Castle.

Columbus Group Visits El Salvador With *Thrivent Builds With Habitat*



Group worked on houses on right. Houses on left are complete.

In late October a group of seven individuals, including Kathleen Zwansiger, (**Redeemer Lutheran Church**) of the SOS Hunger Task Force, participated in a *Thrivent Builds with Habitat** project in El Salvador. They spent a week working on 7 homes in the village of Villa Esperanza (Hope), just outside Santa Ana, El Salvador. This Thrivent project includes 75 homes and should be complete by June, 2010. The group included Rick and Diane Langner and Joe and Bonnie Reilly (**Gethsemane, Columbus**), Meaghan Reilly from Houston, Texas, and Tim Eggert, whom they met in El Salvador.

The work consisted of sifting gravel out of sand, sanding, white-washing and painting cement block walls. On a few days, work was cut short early so the group could visit Mayan ruins and enjoy a closing day fiesta. Worship on Sunday was at a Lutheran church where they left children's clothes, which another congregation had collected. The group also visited an orphanage for abused girls.

The visitors received gracious acceptance of their mistakes and conversations in limited Spanish with lots of hand gestures. The Salvadorans were gifted with 6 days of work time and limited expertise. The workers made new friends with masons, helpers, and the children of the village and orphanage where they received lots of hugs, and even a small bag of marbles from a new friend. All in the group came home feeling they had provided much needed help.

*To learn more about *Thrivent Builds* visit www.thriventbuilds.com/worldwide

Mexico Trip Reveals How ELCA Hunger Funds Aid Communities

By Pastor Joene Herr, St. Matthews, Ithaca

Have you ever wondered where the ELCA World Hunger monies go? Have you ever wondered if the money really helps—really has an impact on people?

This past fall I had the opportunity to travel with about 30 other ELCA laypeople and clergy to Mexico City for a **World Hunger Leadership Gathering**. We spent six days at the Lutheran Center and were introduced by a number of local experts to the economic and political issues of Mexico.

This trip was my first to Mexico. Although I spent the summer preparing by reading, I was shocked by the vastness and poverty I saw. Mexico City has about 25 million inhabitants and 5 million cars. Over half of the water is polluted; all drinking water must be purchased. Four million people have no toilets. Even though Mexico is a country with a rich history, it is very poor economically. Two thirds of all trade in Mexico is sold on the street; 70 percent of the people are officially unemployed. Because there is a very small tax base there are almost no public services available.

After learning about the situation in Mexico City, our group travelled to two communities and met people aided by Amextra, an organization committed to assisting individuals, families and communities. Amextra was founded 25 years ago by Mexico university graduates influenced by liberation theology who wanted to make an impact in their country. ELCA World Hunger has partnered with Amextra for 22 years on projects including community health, income generation, education, and restoration and conservation of natural resources.

At Chalco, we met staff of a microloan program. The Amextra Chalco community center began 24 years ago with a day care and health center. Today they serve over 5700 participants, 80% of whom are women, with small loans. The microfinance's mission is to offer freedom and economic options through financial services. Each member begins by joining a solidarity group of five to 20 individuals who meet weekly to support and encourage each other. After saving money for eight weeks, a person can take out a loan of three to five times their savings. Through August 2009, the Chalco program had over \$11 million in savings with an active loan portfolio of over \$24 million. The program is more than sustainable with a return rate of 119%. The recuperation rate is 99.2%; only \$52,000 was 'at risk' with payments behind 1%.

Behind the dollar figures and percentages are real people impacted by these small loans. For example, Maria's husband suffered a brain aneurysm and stroke 8 years ago. He had a body shop, but had to close it due to his health. With a microloan, Maria was able to get the business up and running again and now supports herself, her husband and their children.

Mrs. Helia V. and her husband took out a loan to open a dress manufacturing business in their home. The business has grown. They employ over 10 in their home, six more women sew in their own homes. Although Mr. and Mrs. V have prospered so much they could graduate from the Amextra Microloan program, they stay in because they like the weekly meetings with their neighbors.

After seeing the long term success of Chalco, our group traveled to Lomos, a 5500 person squatters' community built on an abandoned quarry outside of Mexico City proper. Amextra was invited by the community to help five years ago. With Amextra's help the community has built a tortilleria and small store, to employ people and sell products cheaply. They've installed power lines, built a community center that houses an after-school program, and added a water purification business. Water trucked up into the Lomos community costs about 50 pesos a day; the 'official' minimum wage is 55 pesos a day, so the community purification business has made a great impact. The community, with Amextra's help also added a rain-water gathering system, for gardens, clothes and rabbits. Amextra has taught community leaders how to raise rabbits and chickens as a source of income and protein. They monitor families to see that undernourished children get vitamins. The mothers of overweight children are encouraged to participate in an Amextra soy program. So far 250 families have learned to cook and eat healthier. The issue, according to one of the Lomos women, is dignity. With values of honesty, respect, service and solidarity, Amextra recognizes the gifts of each individual and helps the individuals and families make a positive impact in their community. During the swine flu outbreak, Amextra donated fabric which the women used to make face masks. They then took the face masks, soap and bleach and went door to door with instructions to prevent spreading the virus. As one woman told us, "we may live in poverty but we are not poor."

The ELCA World Hunger Fund uses the monies congregations and individuals send to make a positive impact all over the world in communities like Chalco and Lomos with local partners like Amextra. Our model is accompaniment; recognizing that we are all children of God, called to walk together in solidarity that practices interdependence and mutuality. A quote on the Lutheran Center webpage summarizes our call; *"If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. If you have come because your liberation is bound to my liberation, then let us move forward."* -- *Indigneous Leader*

Help Needed in Sri Lanka

Thousands remain in displacement camps in Sri Lanka, waiting and wondering when they will be able to return home. Meanwhile, food, water and other resources are in critically low supply. Lutheran World Relief must raise \$500,000 to continue providing life saving assistance. A monetary gift to the **Sri Lanka Crisis** will keep the work going. Please encourage gifts to www.lwr.org/emegencies/09/Sri Lanka/ or by phone at 1.800.597.5972.

Planning Ahead

Now is the time to begin planning and registering for the **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**. While millions prepare for the big game on February 7, youth across the country come together for a single cause to end hunger. A congregation's efforts can be as simple as collecting money and/or canned goods and donate proceeds to a local food pantry. Or go a step further and prepare a simple meal of soup and sandwich, invite members to come and eat, and request donations from those who attend. Donate proceeds to ELCA World Hunger or a charity of your choice, and report your results to be included in the national total. Register your event at www.souperbowl.org or call 1.800.358.7687.



Correction notice: *In the November issue, **Pastor Todd Cutter, Trinity, Mt. Healthy**, was incorrectly identified as Pastor Todd Carter. I sincerely regret this error and apologize for any inconvenience it might have caused. Email Pastor Cutter at pastor_todd@trinitymthealthy.org or call 513.522.3026, for information on beginning a meal ministry in your congregation. SRT*

Hunger Task Force Members Rev. Henry Zorn, Chair

Rev. Glen Bengson; Rev. Orinda Brinkley; Terry Bruns; David Drumm; Sarah Ehler; Rev. Jonathan Eilert; Rev. Ruth Fortis; Rev. Joene Herr; Hilde Hildebrandt; Rev. Katrina Kerrigan; Lora Jollis; Rev. Mike Poole; Liz Senft; Rev. Monte Stevens; Rose Wasky; Kathleen Zwanziger; Rev. William McKee, staff; Susan Truchses, newsletter editor.

Lectionaries for Poverty and Justice Lent 2010

The following page is presented as an aid for preaching on the lectionary year “C” Luke, prepared by The Rev. Glen Bengson, Hunger Task Force member.

2010 LENT AND EASTER TO PENTECOST LECTIONARY PREACHING, series “C”
provided by Pastor Glen Bengson

The following reflections are intended to help in identifying themes of hunger and justice concerns in the Sunday texts for Lent and Easter in 2010. Commemorations for that week are also noted.

February 17, Ash Wednesday. In the Matthew 6 gospel text, Jesus cautions his disciples against using the traditional disciplines of piety to draw attention to themselves. He does assume they will give alms, pray, and fast (“WHEN you...”). The Isaiah 58 text notes God’s expectations for faithful worship: “Is not this is the fast that I choose, ...to share your bread with the hungry?” Although the Matthew text leaves it out, the “Lord’s Prayer,” with its central petition of “Give us this day our daily bread,” might make a good Lenten midweek series. Feb. 18 is the commemoration Martin Luther.

Feb. 21, First Lent. The Deuteronomy 26 text calls Israel to present the first fruits as a thanksgiving for God’s blessings in the Exodus, as well as providing for the “Levites and strangers” in their midst. In rebuking Satan’s temptation to produce bread for himself to escape famine, Jesus replies, “One does not live by bread alone,” with the obvious implication that neither do people live without bread. Deaconess founder Elizabeth Fedde is remembered on Feb. 25, devoting her ministry to sailors, the poor, and the sick.

Feb. 28 Second Lent. Paul reminds the church that their true citizenship is in heaven and not to serve their own selfish interests (“their god is the belly”) and thus t stand firm here and now in the Lord. We pray “your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.” March 2 commemorates John and Charles Wesley, hymn writers, but first ministers to the poor of England.

March 7, Third Lent. Jesus tells his listeners that those to whom violence comes (the victims of the falling tower; those slaughtered by Pilate) are no worse than others. Don’t “blame the victims” of poverty and oppression for their situation. Isaiah 55 proclaims God’s invitation to come to the waters, to drink, and to eat, without price. How do food pantries and feeding programs live out this grace? Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, both of whom led slaves to freedom, are commemorated on Mar. 7. The Underground Railroad and Freedom Center in Cincinnati honor their work.

Mar. 14, Fourth Lent. The Passover feast celebrates the Exodus and gift of the land. The prodigals (Luke 15) celebrate reconciliation (2 Cor. 5) at a feast of welcome. Eucharist celebrates freedom and reconciliation in Christ.

Mar. 21, Fifth Lent. Isaiah 43 declares a new Exodus out of exile. In John 12, Jesus acknowledges Mary’s gift of anointing against Judas’ rebuke: “The poor you will always have with you.” John neglects to mention Jesus’ continuing words, noted in Mark 14: “...and if you want to, you can do good to them.” Sundays and Seasons notes that nard came from Nepal, a reminder of globalization then, and now.

Mar. 28, Palm/Passion Sunday. The procession into Jerusalem anticipates the coming Messiah, who will free Israel from the yoke of Rome. In the passion, Jesus also frees from the yokes of sin and death.

Maundy Thursday. Jesus gathers his disciples around a meal of remembrance, commitment, and mission. Sharing food is a holy rite, whether at the Lord’s Table or the family table.

EASTER, Apr. 4. Isaiah 65 anticipates the new heaven and new earth, renewed and abundant as good news. Today commemorates both Dieterich Bonhoeffer and Benedict the African.

April 11, Second Easter. Peter declares he must obey God rather than human authority. Christians advocate for the poor, the hungry, and the oppressed, on behalf of God.

April 18, Third Easter. The risen Jesus eats with his disciples, and tells Peter, “Feed my sheep.” One way to summarize the mission and ministry of the Church: To feed the hungry with the Bread of life. Toyohiko Kagawa, Apr. 23, lived among the poor in Japan, starting schools and hospitals.

April 25, Fourth Easter. Good Shepherd Sunday features Psalm 23, with its green pastures, still waters, a table prepared for us, and an eternal home. Acts 9 tells the story of Dorcas and the widows, a special concern for God’s people. The pious Catherine of Siena cared for the poor and imprisoned, combining prayer and activism, “ora et labora”(pray as if all depended on God; work as if all depends on you.)

May 2, Fifth Easter. A new heaven and earth is the vision of Rev. 21. The new Jerusalem comes down from heaven to earth. There is hope for the world. Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment, “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 13). May 4 remembers Monica, mother of Augustine, following her wayward son on his travels, constantly praying for him to repent and trust God’s grace. He did.

May 9, Sixth Easter. Acts 16 tells of Paul’s vision to go to Macedonia and “help us.” (Everywhere he went he asked for a collection to relieve the hunger of the saints in Judea.) Again in Rev. 21, we hear of the New Jerusalem, and its abundance and healing. Jesus promises an Advocate, the Spirit, who offers peace. The Church advocates for peace for all. (John 5 indicates there is healing now for those in need.)

May 16, Seventh Easter. Again in Acts 16, Paul and Silas are in prison for freeing a slave girl. This costs her “owners” much money. Still today a child slave trade exists, prisons hold people unjustly accused, and the church is challenged to be an advocate for those in need. In John 17, Jesus prays that his disciples may be united in mission. May 18 commemorates Erik, King of Sweden, concerned for the poor and sick, raising the issue of the relation of church and state. May 21 remembers Helena, mother of Constantine, generous to the poor, and builder of churches on holy land sites.

May 23, PENTECOST. The gospel is for all people (Acts 2). The Spirit comes to unite those separated by the confusion of Babel. May 24 the church remembers Copernicus, one of the founders of modern science, helping us in our appreciation of the wonder of God’s creation, intended for all people.

May 30, the Holy Trinity. Psalm 8 points us to the wonder and glory of God’s gift of life. Justin Martyr (June 1) and Pope John XXIII (June 3) remind us of our mission of witness and unity under Christ.