

Millennium Development Goal 1



*Halve the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day
Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger*

Scripture Reflection:

"You have my Father's blessing;... For when I was hungry, you gave me food; when thirsty, you gave me drink; when I was a stranger, you took me into your home; when naked, you clothed me; when I was ill, you came to my help; when in prison, you visited me. Truly, I tell you: anything you did for one of my brothers here, however insignificant, you did for me." (Matt 25:34-36, 40).

contradictions of a ... progress which offers immense possibilities to a fortunate few, while leaving millions of others... in living conditions far below the minimum demanded by human dignity. How can it be that even today there are still people dying of hunger? Condemned to illiteracy? Lacking the most basic medical care?" (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 50).

Grameen* Bank that provides small loans, particularly to women. They are able to generate income to feed and educate their families. One example of such a small business may be the purchase of pigs that are bred, fattened and sold adding to family income and well-being.

How should we respond?

We are called to respond on two levels:

- * To share our wealth more generously and equitably both as individuals and as a nation.
- * Host a reflection morning on the theme of food. Think of those who have little as you share your plenty. Reflect on times when you have been hungry. Contribute the cost of one family meal to an agency that works with the poor.

Practice a simple life:
'Live simply so that others may simply live.'

* village

A story from the field

One hears often of the so-called 'poverty-trap.' Living in extreme poverty usually means that a person has limited access to many things that we take for granted like education, healthcare and the like. One of the greatest difficulties facing people who are extremely poor is accessing a source of credit to enable them to finance a small business venture. Columban Fr Sean Connaughton has transformed the lives of many in the Philippines through the establishment of a Kazama

Food for thought

Our world is one of vast Contrast! Over recent decades unprecedented economic growth has meant that most of us in Australia and New Zealand live comfortable lives. At the same time more than 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty and more than 815 million people have little to eat to meet basic energy requirements. One is reminded of the Gospel story of the rich man and Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31) with its images of both feast and famine.

This same image prompted Pope John Paul II to write, 'Our world is entering a new millennium burdened by the

To make poverty history!



The Kazama Grameen Bank gives small loans to people for small projects like raising pigs. Their lives can be transformed by this assistance.

Target 1:

Proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day 1990 and 2002 (%)

	1990	2002
Sub-Saharan Africa	44.6	44.0
Southern Asia	39.4	31.2
Eastern Asia	33.0	14.1
South-Eastern Asia and Oceania	19.6	7.3
Latin America & the Caribbean	11.3	8.9
Northern Africa and Western Asia	2.2	2.4
Transition countries of South-Eastern Europe	0.4	1.8
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)	0.4	2.5

Asia leads the decline in global poverty

Target 2:

Proportion of people living with insufficient food 1990-1992, 1995-1997, 2001-2003 (%)

	1990-1992	1995-1997	2001-2003
Sub-Saharan Africa			
Africa	33	34	31
Southern Asia	25	23	21
Eastern Asia	16	12	12
South-Eastern Asia	18	14	12
Latin America & the Caribbean	13	11	10
Western Asia	6	9	9
Northern Africa	4	4	4
CIS, Asia	16	-	-
Oceania	15	14	12
CIS, Europe	4	-	3

More people go hungry, even though worst-hit regions show improvement and rates of hunger decline