



## Growing a Culture of Peace monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!

From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!

### No 5, June 2013: "Sharing Food For All"

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##### # 5 "Sharing Food For All"

##### June 2nd, The Body and Blood of Christ. Luke 9: 11B - 17

**Reflection:** *He said to them, "Give them some food yourselves."*

In the scriptures, so much of Jesus' teaching revolves around food, especially the sharing of food and the hospitality to all who come to the table. In this Gospel passage, Jesus' asks his disciples to ensure that all will be fed. We are to do likewise. When many of us in affluent Australia spend more on a cup of coffee or a block of chocolate than others who exist on \$2 a day, we are challenged to ask why? How can this happen and how can we do something about it?

**Fact File:** The theme of this year's World Environment Day (June 5th) is *Think.Eat.Save*. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted. This is equivalent to the same amount produced in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, 1 in every 7 people go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from hunger. This enormous imbalance in lifestyles has devastating effects on the environment. FAO estimates that a third of global food production is either wasted or lost. If food is wasted, it means that all the resources and inputs used in its production are also lost, e.g. It takes about 1,000 litres of water to produce 1 litre of milk and about 16,000 litres goes into a cow's food to make a hamburger. [http://www.fao.org/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/index_en.htm)

**Learn More:** e.g. Global food production occupies 25% of all habitable land and is responsible for 70% of fresh water consumption, 80% of deforestation, and 30% of greenhouse gas emissions. It is the largest single driver of biodiversity loss and land-use change. <http://www.unep.org/wed/theme/>

**Take Action:** Make informed decisions. Reduce your foodprint. Select foods that have less of an environmental impact, such as organic foods that do not use chemicals in the production process. Choose to buy locally so that foods are not flown halfway across the world and therefore limit emissions.

<http://www.australianfoodsovereigntyalliance.org/>

