

**Growing a Culture of Peace monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!
From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!
1 “Shining your Light when it seems so Dark”**

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February 5th, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Matt 5:13-16

Reflection: “Shining Your Light Before Others”.

“You are the light of the world”, Jesus said to his disciples in Matthew’s Gospel. Now is a time to shine the light of hope wherever we are – in our families, schools and parishes, but especially in the wider community. As singer Arlo Guthrie says, “You can’t have a light without a dark to stick it in”. There is a sense of pessimism and negativity prevalent today, spread all the more easily through media. Pope Francis spoke recently to journalists about the generation of fear and apathy and the idea that evil abounds. He urged them to create space for stories of hope, going on to say, “The early Christians compared the human mind to a constantly grinding millstone; it is up to the miller to determine what it will grind: good wheat or worthless weeds. Our minds are always “grinding”, but it is up to us to choose what to feed them”. Let us choose to share the light of our good news stories and “stick the light in the dark”.

Fact File: Columbans are working in places where the dark can seem overwhelming. Yet courageous people shine brilliant lights of hope. Virginia O’Vidad, tells the story of “Sising”, a poor farmer in the Philippines. Virginia is the Program Coordinator of the “Pedaling to Live Program and Green Shelter”, a Ministry of Columban Fr Oliver McCrossan

Learn More: Pedaling to Live and Green Shelter, Inc. reaches the communities and sectors who are always left behind in terms of the programs and services from the government. These include farmers, tricycle drivers and persons with disabilities. With the support of the Columban Missionaries and benefactors this ministry has been serving and touching many lives.

Take Action: Read “Sising’s” story and support this project. www.columban.org.au/archives/features/2017/inspiring-story-of-a-farmer

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