



**A PRAYERFUL REFLECTION ON
THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2:
'END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY and IMPROVED NUTRITION
and PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE'**

Give us This Day our Daily Bread

Ever since the sunrise kissed the first dawn of creation the threat of hunger and starvation have been the constant companions and driving force of the human experience, indeed hunger and starvation is embedded deeply into the consciousness of every human being today, because all of us, even those who are fortunate to be living in the developed world have had ancestors who would have experienced hunger and starvation. In today's world we must **refuse to accept poverty and hunger** as inevitable and not give in to the temptation that there is nothing we can do about it.



Jesus' teaching accepted no justification for letting someone go hungry. We recall his answer to the apostles when they adopted a defeatist attitude before a crowd of people whom the Lord had asked them to feed. He didn't hesitate to tell them:

"You yourselves must give them something to eat." (Mt.14: 13-21)

Silent Reflection:

Consider Jesus' words and instruction to his apostles and also to ourselves as we are apostles of Christ in this modern era. How do we play our part in transforming Jesus' words into positive action to aid the poor and hungry of our world today? We reflect upon our own lives and circumstances. Some have much while others have little or nothing.

We share our thoughts

Pope Francis has called the hunger situation in the world today an **"emergency"** and exhorted all people to lift up their voices as one human family in a **"roar"** to **"shake the world"** and establish food as a **"human right"** which should be honoured in all places.



Nano observed at first hand the poverty and hunger among the poor of France and later in Ireland. She reflected deeply on the tragedy which was all around her and prayed for guidance, which came in the form of strength and zeal to serve the poor for the rest of her life. Nano also recognised that hunger was a barrier to learning and was determined to feed the poor as well as to educate them.

***"Pray for the hungry, then feed them -
this is how prayer works"***

- **Globally**, one in nine people in the world today (795 million) are undernourished
- **The vast majority** of the world's hungry people live in developing countries, where 12.9 per cent of the population is undernourished.
- **66 million primary school-age** children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.



The food and agriculture sector offers key solutions for development, and is central for hunger and poverty eradication.

If done right, agriculture, forestry and fisheries can provide nutritious food for all and generate decent incomes, while **supporting people-centred rural development** and **protecting the environment**.

Right now, our soils, freshwater, oceans, forests and biodiversity are being rapidly degraded. Climate change is putting even more pressure on the resources we depend on, increasing risks associated with disasters such as droughts and floods. Many rural women and men can no longer make ends meet on their land, forcing them to migrate to cities in search of opportunities.

A profound change of the global food and agriculture system is needed if we are to nourish today's 795 million hungry and the additional 2 billion people expected by 2050.



What can we do? Well without even leaving your house there are things you can do and find out by logging on to www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/takeaction/ and to learn more - <http://borgenproject.org/10-ways-stop-world-hunger>



We say together, mindful of the needs of the world:

***Lord, the scale of global poverty is beyond our understanding.
Give bread to those who are hungry and a hunger for justice to those who have bread.
Grant us the faith and persistence to sow seeds of righteousness
that might take years or even generations to bear fruit. Amen***