

“The Earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship.”

– Pope John Paul II

WEEK 2: CAMBODIA
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT 08 MARCH 2020

REFLECTION/HOMILY NOTES

The transfiguration in the Gospel readings today describes a dazzling transformation. The witness of which had a profound impact on Peter, James and John. The transfiguration renewed their vision and they felt compelled to perpetuate the experience by remaining high on the mountain. Jesus encouraged them to continue their journey.

From a mountain you can see the landscape from a different perspective, noticing landmarks which may not have been clear from below. Often climbing the mountains in our own lives; overcoming challenges, offers us an opportunity for a new perspective, a clearer vision. Much like Peter, James and John, when we behold the divinity of Jesus, our view is expanded, so that we can now see in a different way. This doesn't deny the circumstances of our life or world, rather it shows us that in the midst of these circumstances, there is life, hope and each other. This is what allows us to endure, face and respond to the needs of our world.

Phany who lives in rural Cambodia, undertook an opportunity that

transformed her own perspective. Struggling to earn a living as a rice farmer, her family experienced food scarcity and she was forced to leave her young daughter behind to take up construction work in the city.

Through a Caritas Australia supported program, Phany learnt a range of different farming techniques and small business skills so that she could generate a reliable income for herself and her family. Now Phany is reunited with her daughter because she can make a living in her home village. She now has enough food and income to support her family and send her daughter to school. These new skills also benefitted Phany's neighbours through better management of water and the sharing of farming skills which has improved the wellbeing of the whole community.

Do you need to change your perspective so together we can go further, recognising that our responsibility for others goes beyond our immediate community?



PHANY, CAMBODIA

Twenty-seven-year-old Phany, lives in a village in western Cambodia. Struggling to earn a living as a rice farmer, she was forced to leave her daughter behind in the village, to take up construction work in the city.

Then in 2016, Phany joined a Caritas supported program, learning more productive farming and irrigation techniques. Her community learned to work together for better water management, to combat drought.

Over 70 percent of Cambodia's population live in rural communities – and farming families living in poverty are the most food insecure. Thirteen percent of Cambodians live below the poverty line, while 35 out of every 1000 babies die due to malnutrition.

In 2016, Phany joined the Upholding Community Dignity Together program, where she learnt new farming techniques, such as a drip irrigation system which enabled her to get a better yield from her vegetable crops and to conserve water for drier periods. She also learnt how to grow vegetables and raise chickens and ducks. Phany's community also took part in training in health, nutrition, hygiene and disaster preparedness, arming them with better strategies to cope with environmental changes.

With your help, mothers like Phany can continue to uplift their communities, and provide food for their families. A brighter future women, men and their families can start today. Let's Go Further, Together.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We pray for all those around the world who rely on farming to sustain their families. May we work as one human family to promote ecologically sound agricultural practices. We pray for grace to overcome our blindness and see with clarity our responsibility for others.

FUNDRAISING IDEA

Each Sunday, play the short film introducing that week's featured story (found on the Project Compassion USB) to highlight the positive impact your community is making. Integrate weekly stories, reflections and prayers into Mass (found in this booklet and on the USB) to further emphasise how your community's donations are transforming the lives of vulnerable people around the world.

BULLETIN NOTICE

Twenty-seven-year-old Phany was a struggling farmer and was forced to leave her daughter to take up construction work in the city. Her life has been transformed since joining a Caritas supported program, learning crop growing skills and better water management, to combat drought.

DON'T FORGET TO CREATE YOUR PARISH FUNDRAISING PAGE AT: LENT.CARITAS.ORG.AU