



COLUMBAN MISSION INSTITUTE



Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice

Making connections between
Peace, Ecology and Justice from
the Gospel perspective

**Growing a Culture of Peace monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!
From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!
#10, November 2015: "Poor in Spirit".**

Growing a Culture of Peace Monthly Bulletin

10 "Poor in Spirit".

November 1st, All Saints Day: Matt 5: 1 – 12a

Reflection: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven"

The desire is very strong in each and every person to be respected just for who we are. I remember well visiting a village in north western Bangladesh and meeting a very poor villager as she showed us her new clay oven which limited the toxic fumes of the more traditional models. As she spoke she asked me why I was so interested. She gave me the impression that she wondered why I, who might be used to using an electric oven, would even bother being interested in the culinary ability of someone who didn't have electricity. I tried to convey to her that I was really interested in learning more from her. I truly admired her dignity and ability to cook so well using this simple oven. I reflected on the excesses of kitchen appliances of affluent Australians. I wondered do they make for more meaningful family meals? The hospitality I experienced from extremely poor people in Bangladesh showed me a humble generosity of spirit from which I can learn a great deal.

Fact File: Poor people and nations who have done the least to contribute to global emissions are paying the highest price for human-induced climate change. The **Story of Stuff** looks at how we make, use and throw away the "stuff" in our lives, then how we can build a society based on being and sharing rather than having.

Learn More: Pope Francis speaks constantly of what we can learn from the poor about humility and trust in God. In the culture of consumerism, we forget how to detach from possessiveness. We are called to be on the side of those who lack the basic necessities of life and to respect each person's dignity. Read how Columban Sister Martina Kim does this in Huaycan on the outskirts of Lima, Peru.
<http://goo.gl/9YBWYy>

Take Action: Watch **The Story of Stuff**. <http://storyofstuff.org/> Sit down as a family, a class, a community and plan how to Refuse, Reduce, Re-use, Re-Cycle the stuff in your lives.

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