

To: Priests, Parish Council Leaders, Religious and
Members of the various Christian Communities

WANTED: MORE OF YOUR IDEAS FOR SIMPLE LIVING



+The Peace of the Lord be with you!

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.” (Leviticus 19:9-10)

This is the second letter issued from the Saitama Diocesan Committee for the Promotion of Simple Living & Environmental Concerns, better known by the familiar name, SIMPLE LIFE DESK. With the coming of spring, we know that everyone is busy with preparations for Lent and Easter. Since the Bishop issued a new Vision Statement for Saitama Diocese last year, we are sure that you have been discussing the new pastoral principles and priority issues at your gatherings. From among those issues and priorities we would like to suggest that you once again consider using the issue of “simple living” (spiritual poverty) as a theme for your community to reflect on during the 2013 Lenten Season.

This year we invite you to send us your suggestions for the, “Ideas for Simple Living: Save 5% Campaign”. The ideas you send to us will be shared with many others so that they can have some suggestions to consider when finding their own method for living a simple life. We believe that through this “Save 5% Campaign”, we can renew our way of living as Christians.

We close this letter with a quote from Bishop Tani’s New Year’s Message (2011):

“I think we can create more time for repose by our way of living. While making a suggestion to myself, I would also like to make a suggestion to all of you! Let us try to cut waste by 5% and increase time for repose by 5%. This is not too difficult to put into practice; for example, by reducing the amount of time for chores, we can have more time to listen to our children. Assuming that the amount of time spent for chores is eight hours, cutting 5% would be 24 minutes. We can also try to shorten our overtime work by 5% to make more free time. This would be equal to only two hours per week and we could use that two hours for ourselves and for our families. We can also make our meals simpler by 5% or we can lower our consumption of electricity, water and gasoline, by 5%. Within our own capacity and with our own ideas, we can set a goal to reduce our expenditures and waste by “5%”. I think that aiming for this 5% goal would lighten our burdens and enrich our lives. What do you think?”

In other words, we can live the spirit of poverty by saving 5% on everything we do or use in our daily lives. This reduction of 5% will allow us enough repose so that we can reclaim our true and original identity. Namely, we can reclaim the feeling of being made in the image and likeness of God. This change will free us to be able to enjoy time with our Lord. Moreover, how wonderful would it be if this change prompted us to welcome into our community the lonely and the isolated, or the children who have been bullied as our brothers and sisters!”

Please forward this message to the members of your parish communities. Thank you for your understanding and your cooperation!

In prayers,

Fr. Claver D’SOUZA

SIMPLE LIFE DESK (Promotion of Simple Living & Environmental Concerns)
Pastoral Center of the Catholic Saitama Diocese