



“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”...“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

— Matthew 25:37-40

The Lenten season is an invitation to ask questions that bring us closer to the life, death and love of Christ. The questions I asked during the Lenten season a few years ago were, “Where is the hunger in my own life and the lives of others?” and perhaps most importantly, “What am I called to do with the answers?” Until that time, I did not have the courage to ask those questions.

When I opened the door to the wondering and the praying, the Holy Spirit, wasting no time, led me to the answers quickly and clearly. It was obvious—I had no physical hunger. My hunger was spiritual complacency. I was not putting my faith into action about something that troubled me deeply: people in my own backyard suffering from hunger.

This Lenten season I will be asking, “What more can I do about the hunger of others?” and I will give thanks to Jesus for being my definition of courage while I wait for the Holy Spirit to live and move in my being, challenging me to be a faithful steward and an example of the one who loves us all.

— Marianne Van Vorst Ryan