

WEEK 3 TANZANIA

**3RD SUNDAY OF LENT
WEEKEND OF 7 MAR**

"In the depths of every heart, love creates bonds and expands existence, for it draws people out of themselves and towards others."

— Pope Francis

REFLECTION / FAMILY NOTES



Twenty-two-year-old Oliva lives in Tanzania with her farmer husband, two young sons and an adopted niece and nephew.

She didn't have the opportunity to go to school growing up, and was embarrassed that she couldn't read, write or count. Around 25 percent of Tanzanian girls and women over 15 years cannot read or write, with many families unable to afford school fees or uniforms.

Now, as an adult, Oliva runs a kiosk and works as a farm labourer – but her business was losing money because she couldn't add up.

Then Oliva enrolled in Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes. She also set up a classroom at home to teach her neighbours, for free, because they were too shy to attend larger classes.

Oliva has now graduated, as have some of her students. Attendance at her classes is growing, her kiosk is thriving and she can help her children with their homework. She aims to become a pastor and run for leadership in the next local election.

Oliva aspires to "Be More" and wants to help her community to achieve its vision of a better life for all.

"I am proud to be a teacher who helps others to achieve their dream," Oliva says.

BULLETIN

Oliva, 22, could not read, write or count, and her business was losing money. Then she attended Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes, and set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours. Now her classes, business and family are thriving, and she aims to become a pastor and run for local leadership.

In today's gospel, Jesus drives the traders out of the temple saying, "Stop making my Father's house a market place!" Jesus cleanses the temple because values have gone astray. This cleansing is symbolic of reform and renewal.

We are the Church – it is through our actions and works that we are the hands and feet of Christ in our world today. Caritas Australia's annual Lenten campaign theme for this year is "Be More", which comes from the words of Saint Oscar Romero "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." This is a wonderful invitation to rethink what is important to us, what renewal or reform is needed in our own lives and as a community.

Hearing of how, with some support from Caritas, communities are able to be architects of their own development, brings about a change in us. We are invited to be part of the story, of working in partnership for a better world.

One such good news story is of Oliva which is featured in Project Compassion. Oliva is a mother of four who did not have the opportunity to go to school in Tanzania, and was

embarrassed that she was unable to read, write or count. As an adult, her business was losing money because she couldn't add up.

Then Oliva enrolled in Caritas Australia's literacy and numeracy classes. She also set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours, for free, because they were too shy to attend larger classes.

Oliva has now graduated, attendance at her home classes is growing, her kiosk is thriving and she is helping her children with their homework. She aims to become a pastor and run for leadership in the next local election - to help her community to "Be More."

Access to education liberated Oliva, her family and her community. Oliva has transformed her life.

What kind of reform would Jesus call us to do today? What are the things that need renewal or could be changed in our world? How can you "Be More"?

Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
1 Corinthians 1:22-25
John 2:13-25

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We pray for the millions of adults that did not have the opportunity to receive an education. That with our support, they find new opportunities to learn and grow so they can be architects of their own development.

FUNDRAISING IDEA

Ask your parishioners to bring in a meal or light refreshments to share after mass. Discuss what impact basic schooling has on the most vulnerable around the world, people like Oliva. Ask the question, "where would you be now if you didn't receive schooling?"

**DONT FORGET TO CREATE YOUR
PARISH FUNDRAISING PAGE AT:
LENT.CARITAS.ORG.AU**