

## Explore the Theme — Grounded in Reality

Terri MacKenzie, SHCJ reflects on the ecological context for growing wheat, or anything, today  
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“A single grain of wheat will never be more than a single grain of wheat unless it drops into the ground and dies. Because then it sprouts and produces a great harvest of wheat—all because one grain died.”

*The Passion Translation*

This theme beautifully applies to Jesus’ self-giving, our personal calls, and the life/call of our provinces.

To help ground it “... in the reality of our current situation, and that of the world...” I note that, despite God’s action there, wheat cannot grow on land —



that is parched or flooded;  
degraded by toxic fertilizers and pesticides;  
eroded by industrial agriculture;  
polluted by oceanic salt water;  
and destroyed by war.

At least 33% of the world’s food-producing land has been lost since the 1970’s, primarily caused by global warming and deforestation.

The resulting starvation, migration, and extinctions affect millions world-wide. Families sometimes sell children to traffickers or for early marriages. Environmental racism, population increases, and war exacerbate crises.

As we consider individual justice issues, let us be mindful that “**Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork...**” (LS, 217) can nurture increased unity among us.



What does a grain of wheat dropping into the ground of a planet in crisis say to me/us for SHCJ GC22?