



# A Journey to Justice

## with the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty



### *Called to Global Solidarity*

Diocese of Oakland

**This Week:**  
*Called to Global Solidarity*

- ☞ Faces of Hope
- ☞ Ending Global Poverty
- ☞ Our Faith Tradition
- ☞ Learn More
- ☞ Pray & Celebrate
- ☞ Transformation

**Journey to Justice Series:**

**Week 1**  
*Called to Global Solidarity*

**Week 2**  
*The Millennium Development Goals*

**Week 3**  
*Foreign Aid and Point 7*

**Week 4**  
*Fair Trade*

**Week 5**  
*Debt Relief*

**Week 6**  
*Parishes Respond*

#### Faces of Hope



Rahel is a young mother who has both tuberculosis and AIDS. Her husband who was diagnosed with AIDS soon abandoned her. Now she lives with her mother, who struggles to find medical care and food for her family. The rain drips through the metal roof of their tiny house.

The good news for Rahel is that she is receiving medical care from programs supported by Catholic Relief Services – she feels better now that she is receiving treatment for tuberculosis and soon will begin the life saving antiviral drugs from the local hospital. She is comforted by home visits from her nurse and pastoral workers.

In Tanzania, 12% of the population has HIV/AIDS. Thanks to funding by the U.S. government and CRS, antiviral treatments and testing are now available, and people are living with hope.

#### Ending Global Poverty

In October 2006, Catholics from around the U.S. gathered in San Francisco to mobilize to end global poverty. For two days, economists, theologians, and service providers voiced the needs of the poor, and the ways our faith tradition and civic involvement can support them in living with dignity and hope. The goals of the global community, as described by the Millennium Campaign and adopted by 189 countries, are to end extreme poverty by 2015.

Extreme poverty is “poverty that kills”. More than one billion people around the world live on just 65 cents a day or less. More than one billion people do not have access to clean drinking water. Thirty-thousand children each day die of hunger and disease – one every three seconds. For these brothers and sisters, life is a constant struggle for survival. The good news is that progress is possible as people gain access to sufficient food and water, health care, adequate shelter, and primary education.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops have joined this effort to eradicate extreme poverty by 2015. They are inviting Catholics to participate in the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty to address the root causes of poverty and to make poverty history. During this series, resources will be provided each week in our bulletins and for education and action. As a community we will examine:

- the Millennium Development Goals;
- increasing US foreign aid toward 0.7 percent of our national income;
- promoting fair trade policies which reduce poverty;
- advocating for debt relief for poor countries; and
- sharing ways parishes and individuals can respond.

Our goal is to learn more about the causes and solutions to poverty and to take action.

## From Our Faith Tradition

### Life and Dignity of the Human Person

*The essential starting point for Catholic social teaching is the dignity of every human life. Created by God and redeemed by Christ, every person possesses a fundamental dignity that comes from God, not from any human attribute or accomplishment...The dignity of every person must always be respected because each person is a precious child of God.* (U.S.

Bishops, *For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food*, 2003)

We fall short in our respect for the God-given dignity of each person when, in a world where some people have enormous wealth, others live in desperate poverty. Catholic teaching tells us that the dignity of every human life means that everyone has the right to possess a sufficient amount of the earth's goods for themselves and their family.

### The Common Good and Solidarity

*Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family... Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world.* (U.S. Bishops, *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching*, 2000)

The common good is achieved when social conditions allow people to reach their full human

potential and realize their human dignity. Since we live in a world of global interdependence, reference to "the common good" has a universal meaning, which affirms the need for international structures that promote the just development of the human family across regional and national lines.

### Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

*As followers of Christ, we are challenged to make a fundamental "option for the poor"—to speak for the voiceless, to defend the defenseless, to assess life styles, policies, and social institutions in terms of their impact on the poor. This "option for the poor" does not mean pitting one group against another, but rather, strengthening the whole community by assisting those who are the most vulnerable. As Christians, we are called to respond to the needs of all our brothers and sisters, but those with the greatest needs require the greatest response.* (U.S. Bishops, *Economic Justice for All*, 1986, no. 16)

A basic moral test of our society is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first." (From the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty)

## Learn More

- Called to Global Solidarity: <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/ExcerptGlobalSolidarity.pdf>
- Fact Sheet on Global Poverty: <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/agppacket/20061027agpfactsheet.pdf>
- Bread for the World: <http://www.bread.org/learn/global-hunger-issues>

## Pray and Celebrate

- **Operation Rice Bowl** provides materials for learning and prayer for all ages: See their web page for stories and recipes from several countries: <http://orb.crs.org/features/>
- **Prayer:** "Open our eyes that they may see the deepest needs of people; move our hands that they may feed the hungry; touch our hearts that we may bring warmth to the despairing; teach us the generosity that welcomes strangers; let us share our possessions to clothe the naked; give us the care that strengthens the sick; make us share in the quest to set the prisoner free. In sharing our anxieties and our love, our poverty and prosperity, we partake of your divine presence." (Zimbabwe)



## Transformation

- **Ask yourself and those around you:** How is God calling you to respond to those who suffer? What are the gifts and talents that you can share?
- **Advocate** for funding for the Global Fight Against AIDS at <http://actioncenter.crs.org>