



A Journey to Justice

with the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty



Making Trade Fair

Diocese of Oakland

This Week:
Making Trade Fair

- ☞ We Are Called
- ☞ Reforming Trade Policy
- ☞ CST on Trade
- ☞ Ending Poverty
- ☞ 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

We Are Called



When the Honduran government entered a trade agreement that opened its markets to U.S. imports in the early 1990s, Maria Angeles Amaya of Santa Cruz de Yojoa lost her rice farm. Honduran rice farmers could not compete with the low prices of the U.S.-subsidized rice that was flooding their country. Growers such as Maria and her husband lost their livelihoods and had to leave their communities and migrate to find work elsewhere. What was once a source of reliable income that allowed farmers to afford education and healthcare and meet other family needs had become a source of poverty.

Reforming Trade Policy

The United States Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) invite us to join in the **Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty** to advocate for U.S. policies that foster economic and social development for people living in poverty throughout the world. One way to overcome poverty is to reform US trade policies, starting with agriculture. The Trade Policy Goals of the Catholic Campaign are:

- Reform current U.S. farm programs to reduce overall payments and target remaining payments to small and medium-sized U.S. farms. Eliminate U.S. farm supports that particularly distort trade and make it difficult for farmers in poor countries to compete.
- Include environmental and labor provisions in U.S. bilateral and regional trade agreements to protect vulnerable workers and God’s creation.
- Promote rural development that benefits small farmers, farm workers, and rural communities. Support initiatives in the World Trade Organization to preserve and strengthen “special and differential treatment” for poor countries. This would allow exceptions to free trade requirements so that poor countries can strengthen local agricultural systems without full competition from abroad.
- Encourage broad public debate about the human dimensions of trade. Open the negotiations of trade agreements to representatives of the poor and other affected groups. Encourage transparency in all negotiations.

Catholic Social Teaching on Trade

“The economy should work for people, and not the other way around.”

Economic Justice for All, U.S. Bishops, 1986

“An ethical discernment in the context of international trade must be based upon the principle of the inalienable value of the human person, source of all human rights and every social order. The human being must always be an end and not a means, a subject and not an object, not a commodity of trade. When placed at the service of human development, the international trade system works for people — persons and communities. Trade should benefit people, not just markets and economies. Economic freedom is only one element of human freedom and the economy is only one dimension of the whole of human activity. Economic life cannot be absolutized. Economic activities must be pursued within a broader context of human development, the promotion of human rights and especially overarching policies and targets aimed at eliminating poverty.”

Holy See’s Note to the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, 2003

Ending Poverty One Cup at a Time

Fair Trade is a new model of international trade that provides a clear and just alternative to the free trade system. The principles of Fair Trade support the dignity of every person and respect the integrity of creation. Fair Trade ensures that artisans, farmers and workers in this system are paid fairly, regardless of what might be happening in the conventional economy. For example, coffee farmers would receive an agreed upon price for their crops and not be at the mercy of the international coffee market, where prices change frequently.

Through Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade coffee, chocolate and Work of Human



Hands (crafts) programs, disadvantaged producers earn a fair price for their labor, get access to credit and training, and develop mutually beneficial, long-term relationships with organizations dedicated to the principles of human dignity and economic justice. When we consumers make the conscious decision to purchase Fair Trade items like coffee, tea, fruit, chocolate, and crafts, we are putting our values and faith into action, and working to realize our vision of economic justice. Making the conscious choice to consume Fair Trade products requires little of us, but can have a decisive impact on our brothers and sisters overseas.

Learn More

- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services are working together to urge Congress to adopt policies that support U.S. farmers while reducing hunger and poverty here and around the world. This year the Farm Bill comes up for renewal and will set policies that affect farmers both here and abroad. Read more: <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/200702fbhn.pdf>
- Explore *Make Trade Fair* from OxFam: <http://www.maketradefair.com/en/index.htm>

Pray and Celebrate

We walk, Lord, guided as pilgrims,
with confidence that your presence gives us life
and is stronger than the weariness of the road.
When we walk, Lord, we know that you keep your promises,
that a seedling of hope has sprung up in the midst of a dry people.
We walk, Lord with our hands empty, seeking to be filled with your presence.
We go full of poverty to be enriched.

CRS Prayer Book: Prayer without Borders

Plan a fair trade party at home or church with information from **Eunice Park**, diocesan contact:
eunicejpark@yahoo.com

Transformation: Take Action

- Commit your parish to using **fair trade coffee and tea** at all functions. www.crsfairtrade.org
Buy fair trade products for use at your home, and office.
- **Transfair USA** can help you find products near you: www.transfairusa.org
- Choose **Fair Trade chocolate** for your school fundraisers: <http://raisemoneyright.org/>
- Immigration is often a result of crushing trade policies. **Justice for Immigrants** is the campaign of the US Bishops to change immigration policies here in the US: Take action at www.justiceforimmigrants.org