



A Journey to Justice

with the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty



Parishes Respond

Diocese of Oakland

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Parishes Respond

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Faces of Hope



Here in the US we take water for granted. When we turn on the tap we expect to see clean, healthy, running water. Yet for millions around the world, water is a precious gift.

In rural Malawi, as in many parts of Africa, access to clean, safe water is a daily struggle. The task of providing water for the family is the responsibility of the women and girls. Obtaining water for daily use, usually from unsafe shallow wells, can take 2 to 4 hours every day and traveling 1 to 3km on foot.

With your help, CRS has begun drilling boreholes closer to the villages and providing hand pumps that allow safe drinking water to be drawn from deep underground. Clean, accessible water not only improves the lives of women and girls but also significantly reduces the incidents of water related diseases, especially among the very youngest children. You can view an excerpt from the CRS documentary *Water for Life* at

www.crs.org/our_work/where_we_work/overseas/africa/malawi/video.cfm

We Are Called

Over the past five weeks of this Lenten season, this series has covered many aspects of the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty. Achieving a dramatic reduction in global poverty and meeting the goal to make extreme poverty history by the year 2015 can be achieved if we all commit to do our part. It is a simple choice to recognize Christ in others, in the least among us, and by so doing we will be moved to action.

“Let no one be discouraged by the belief there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world’s ills, against misery and ignorance, injustice and violence... Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of our generation.”

– Robert F. Kennedy

First, we must insist that our government and elected officials enact policies that consider the needs of the poor and promote human development. This requires people of faith to call upon their elected officials and policy makers to make genuine human development for the poorest people and nations a top priority in U.S. policy. Achieving a dramatic reduction in global poverty will require a comprehensive multi-year strategy concentrating on trade, aid and debt.

- **Trade:** shape just policies that help to overcome poverty and promote human development.
- **Aid:** support assistance programs that foster longer-term economic development and empowerment of the poor.
- **Debt:** eliminate debt of the poorest countries in ways that reduce poverty and promote human dignity.

Second, in following Catholic social teaching, we need to continue to provide direct support to the poor ourselves. In the next section you will find examples of parishes that have already taken the first step.

From Words into Action: Parishes Respond

Advocacy

The Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty begins with an essential theme of Catholic Social Teaching: the preferential option for the poor. As Catholics we are asked to be the voice for the poor and to find the strength to speak for those who have no voice. At **Christ the King in Pleasant Hill**, the Social Justice Committee has formed a sub-committee to build awareness of legislative issues among parishioners and to urge them to advocate for these causes. Depending on the advocacy issue, parishioners are asked to contact the President, U.S. or State legislators, or county supervisors. The sub-committee addresses the root causes of poverty, homelessness and violence in our society.

Contact: Mark Gotzald, mgotzald@berkeley.edu

Malawi – A Campaign of Hope

Following one of the worst famines in Africa in 2002-03, the Social Concerns Committee at **St. Joan of Arc in San Ramon** recognized the importance of doing more than just responding to the need for emergency relief and launched *Malawi – A Campaign of Hope*. In partnership with CRS, donors to the campaign provide monetary support for vulnerable children and those orphaned by the AIDS epidemic for food, medical care and education. This project extended to the **Catholic Community of Pleasanton** and **St. Monica in Moraga** in the summer of 2005 when some 500 local children attending Vacation Bible School programs raised funds and learned about the lives of children in Malawi. See the June 20, 2005 edition of the Catholic Voice for

more about this project.

Contact: Theresa Tavares, theresatavares@comcast.net

Sister Parishes

At least **15 parishes in the Diocese of Oakland** have a relationship with a parish, school, hospital, or mission in Haiti, Kenya, Guatemala, Mexico, or El Salvador. Many make regular trips to visit their partner, and many have hosted visitors from their country. These twinning or sister parish experiences expand our mission and create a mutual relationship with real brothers and sisters who know us and pray with us. For more information, contact Mary Doyle, the Social Justice specialist at the Diocese: 510-267-8379

Fair Trade

In much of the developing world families rely on income from the production of handicrafts and consumables such as tea, coffee and chocolate. However, they often only receive a fraction of the value of their goods. By purchasing Fair Trade items the people who produce them will get a fair price. At **St. Joseph Basilica in Alameda**, Fair Trade coffee is used at all parish events. Fair Trade tea, coffee and chocolate is available for purchase at the rectory year round; and once a year at Thanksgiving, the parish organizes a Fair Trade Crafts sale with items from Concern America.

See www.concernamerica.org/Marketplace.html

Contacts:

Mary Kovalitsky, mkovalitsky@st-joseph-community.org and

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Learn More

- To learn about the programs operated by the featured parishes, email the contact person shown.
- **Advocacy:** www.crs.org/get_involved/advocacy/ or email mduoye@oakdiocese.org
- **Direct aid and sponsorship:** gifts.crs.org
- **Fair Trade:** www.crsfairtrade.org and www.oxfamamerica.org/whatwedo/campaigns/make_trade_fair

Pray and Celebrate

For Easter, help people in developing countries by purchasing your Easter bunnies and eggs and *Divine Chocolate* at http://www.crsfairtrade.org/work_of_human_hands/

A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with *discomfort* at easy answers, and superficial relationship,
So that you can live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with *anger* at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with *tears* to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection and war,
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with *enough foolishness* to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.