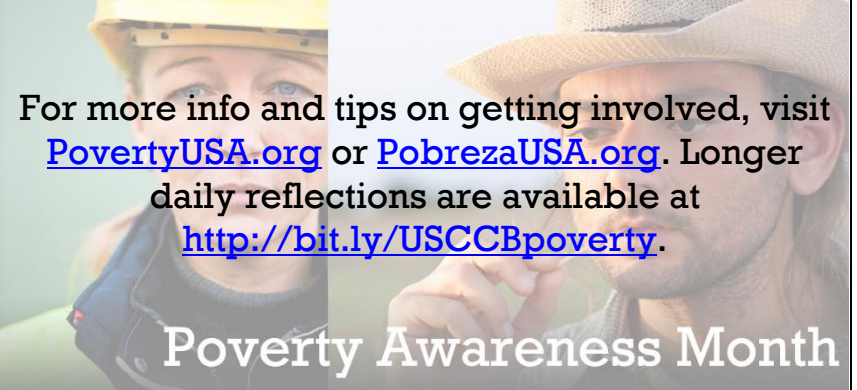




Poverty Awareness Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>1 An annual papal message for the World Day of Peace (Jan. 1) has been released every year since 1968. Read the 2018 message and use the accompanying resources, such as a two-page handout, to reflect on its important invitation to all Catholics and people of good will.</p>	<p>2 “Poverty” is not a catch-phrase—it is a serious reality many are living. Are you familiar with the facts about those living in poverty in the U.S.? Learn facts about poverty in the U.S. and make 2 commitments to address poverty this month.</p>	<p>3 Today’s readings remind us that we are all children of God. Solidarity invites us to remember that we are part of one global human family and share in each other’s joy and suffering. This recognition is a key component of working together to seek justice for all God’s children.</p>	<p>4. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has been working for 48 years to help end poverty by empowering low-income families and educating about the root causes of poverty. Read about the work of the United Workers Association and other groups that receive funding from CCHD.</p>	<p>5 “If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?” (1 Jn. 3:17). How can you be in solidarity with your brother or sister in need? Read how Catholics at a New Orleans parish are reaching out to their brothers and sisters in Nicaragua.</p>	<p>6 Did you know that 1 in 5 children in the U.S. live below the poverty line? Want to help children learn about poverty? Share the Superhero of Justice activity or the Two Feet of Love in Action storybooks with teachers or religious educators at your school or parish.</p>
<p>7 Today is the first day of National Migration Week. There are many factors that have displaced more than 65 million people throughout the world; poverty and migration have very strong link. See the faces of migration and read their stories. What can you do to welcome our migrant brothers and sisters in your community?</p>	<p>8 Through Baptism we share in Christ’s prophetic mission as people of God “<i>to bring glad tidings to the poor...proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free</i>” (Lk 4:18). How can you live out your baptismal advocate for and with persons in poverty locally and globally?</p>	<p>9 Sr. Tracy Horan was the 2017 Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award recipient for her work with immigrant families through Indianapolis Congregation Action Network (ICAN) and Justice for Immigrants. What local or national organizations can you join to help end poverty in your community?</p>	<p>10 “It is impossible to talk about poverty, about abstract poverty. That does not exist! Poverty is the flesh of the poor Jesus in this hungry child, in the sick person, in these unjust social structures. Go, look over there at the flesh of Jesus.” - Pope Francis Watch the Poverty USA Tour and learn about the cycle of poverty.</p>	<p>11 Today is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. There are many children, women and men being trafficked in the world today. Use film to learn about the systemic problems that lead to trafficking. Find out about your slavery footprint and learn about CRS ethical trade.</p>	<p>12 The first reading today invites us to reflect on the role of our civil leaders and their obligations to implement just policies for the common good. Learn about how you can promote the common good by visiting the USCCB’s Action Center. Say a prayer to confront global poverty.</p>	<p>13 Work is much more than simply earning a living; it is a way of using our gifts to participate in God’s creation. We are called to uphold the dignity and rights of workers i.e. just wages, humane conditions, and respectful treatment, etc. How can you help ensure workers’ rights and dignity are respected?</p>

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<p>14 On this World Day of Migrants and Refugees, the Gospel invites us to welcome our neighbors who are feeling violence, persecution, or poverty. Visit ShareJourney.org and WeAreSaltandLight.org for help cultivating a spirit of encounter and welcoming people of diverse backgrounds.</p>	<p>15 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought tirelessly to eliminate injustice and segregation. He understood that eliminating poverty is not simply a hand-out; it is restoring the respect all persons deserve. Learn about—and join—Catholics’ work to address the sin of racism and end racial injustice in our communities.</p>	<p>16 Our faith calls us to care for God’s creation and help poor countries and communities adapt to the effects of climate change. Read this story about the connection between poverty and climate change in this Ethiopian community.</p>	<p>17 We are called to help empower those who are vulnerable to seek change in their communities. A key element of breaking the cycle of poverty is empowering communities through subsidiarity, and supporting their work through solidarity. Read about subsidiarity, solidarity, and the common good.</p>	<p>18 Today marks the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-25). This year’s theme, “Your Right Hand O Lord, Glorious in Power” is inspired by the Caribbean’s experience of colonialism and calls Christians to work together to overcome contemporary challenges that are the legacy of social structures of sin.</p>	<p>19 The Two Feet of Love in Action are two unique but complementary ways to fight poverty. One foot is social justice—eliminating root causes of poverty, and the second is charitable works—responding to immediate needs. Search for a local organization you can join and learn about the current policies affecting persons in poverty.</p>	<p>20 There are many ways to help raise awareness in our communities. One creative way is through the CCHD Creating on the Margins Contest. Learn about how you can get your local school and parish involved. Who can you invite to participate?</p>
<p>21 “If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor, as a response to the sacramental communion bestowed in the Eucharist” (Pope Francis). How does the Eucharist open my heart to my brothers and sisters in poverty?</p>	<p>22 Today is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Participate in this day through prayer or through special events offered by your diocese to observe the anniversary of <i>Roe v. Wade</i>.</p>	<p>23 We are called to both defend the rights of victims and to uphold the dignity of offenders through restorative justice practices. How can you show God’s love and mercy to those in need of healing and hope?</p>	<p>24 Throughout history, God journeys with his people. In a very special way God is close to those who suffer and are marginalized. Watch this video and reflect: What priority do those who experience poverty have in your heart?</p>	<p>25 “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15). How does the Gospel require us to respond to poverty in our communities? What can you do to proclaim the good news of God’s love today?</p>	<p>26 There are many who struggle to obtain basic means for survival such as food, housing, a job, and healthcare: “<i>No one seems to really care whether you’re eating or not.</i>”—Male, 35, Florida, household of four. Read more reflections on poverty in the U.S.</p>	<p>27 Read the story, Our Border Family: Hope at the Border. The El Paso and Juarez communities encounter each other, despite borders. What boundaries do you need to cross to meet your brothers and sisters who experience poverty?</p>
<p>28 “Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor” (Evangelii Gaudium no. 187). Pray for the grace to understand how God is calling you to be his instrument.</p>	<p>29 Many face barriers to breaking the cycle of poverty due to discrimination or racism. What stereotypes do you have that distort your vision of members of your local or global community?</p>	<p>30 When someone suffers from poverty, their basic rights to clean water, food, housing, employment, and vital healthcare are violated. With rights come the duty to protect them. Learn about our Rights and Responsibilities.</p>	<p>31 Keep the conversation about poverty going with your family, in your neighborhood and parish by receiving our newsletter Notes for Neighbors and other communications by the Department of Justice Peace and Human Development.</p>	 <p>For more info and tips on getting involved, visit PovertyUSA.org or PobrezaUSA.org. Longer daily reflections are available at http://bit.ly/USCCBpoverty.</p> <p>Poverty Awareness Month</p>		