



A Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty



Invite your parishioners to celebrate a parish-wide program on ending global poverty

*Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to
proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.”
...He said to them, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”
(Lk 4:17-21)*

As people empowered by Jesus' own Spirit, we know the words of Isaiah continue to be fulfilled in our hearing, and that by virtue of our Baptism we are part of that work. The Catholic Campaign against Global Poverty is one way that the Catholic Church in the United States is working to bring that vision to fullness, by promoting fair trade, effective foreign aid and debt forgiveness as a means to help developing countries rise from poverty. Through the campaigns' resources, your parishioners can join the effort.

Developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services, the Catholic Campaign against Global Poverty resources provide your parish staff and planners with ways to weave prayer education and action on global poverty into liturgies, religious education and faith formation programs, and youth and young adult ministry. Your parish can plan one activity or a number of activities over a few weeks. The aim is that by immersing itself in activities about justice, your parish can work on the fulfillment of the vision all year long.

Resources include:

- A pledge to end global poverty that can be used as part of parish meetings
- Age-appropriate ideas and activities for engaging adults, youth, families and intergenerational groups in their meetings.
- Liturgy resources such as bulletin announcements and general intercessions to reinforce the call to global justice in the Sunday assembly.

For more information on the Campaign against Global Poverty and parish resources visit
www.usccb.org/globalpoverty .



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Consider inviting your parish committees or groups to make their own contribution to a parish-wide response to global poverty.

- **Social Justice committee** – start an e-mail based action group to respond to action alerts from the USCCB and CRS. Visit www.usccb.org/globalpoverty for action alert.
- **Liturgy committee** – incorporate banners, color schemes and music that highlight the commitment of the parish to poverty reduction and blend it with the official church season.
- **Adult education** – sponsor a Bible study on justice themes.
- **Youth ministry and religious education**– dedicate at least one lesson or youth ministry session to the Catholic Campaign against Global Poverty.
- **Whole community catechesis** – develop a session on global justice to use with gatherings of intergenerational groups.. A special session outline for a 2-hour intergenerational program is included among the resources.
- **Finance committee** – explore the prospect of dedicating a percentage of the parish’s income to groups that combat global poverty. Use the Catholic Campaign against Global Poverty to introduce the idea.

Other ideas for parish-wide actions:

- Run bulletin announcements weekly as a way to educate parishioners on the issues of the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty and to invite participation in parish events.
- Stock Fair Trade coffee and tea to be used at all parish meetings. Provide literature on CRS’ Fair Trade program for people to read as they drink their coffee. Handouts and other resources are available at www.crsfairtrade.org.
- Provide all committee chairs with a copy of the Pledge to Combat Global Poverty and invite them to begin meetings with this pledge.
- Does your parish or diocese have a sister parish in developing country? Have an informational night on the work that has been done there, invite a speaker who has been there or is from there; explore the reasons why the country is poor, and celebrate the gifts of that country in food, song, dance or story.