



# A Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty



## *Bulletin Announcements*

Use these weekly bulletin announcements to educate your parish on the issues of fair trade, effective aid and debt reduction as part of your *Catholic Campaign against Global Poverty* activities. There are five suggested weeks, but you may pick and choose ones that will generate the most interest in your parish.

### *Week One*

Our parish has dedicated (insert dates here) as a time during which we study and take action on factors that impoverish people throughout the world. Our parish committees and outreaches have been invited to weave these themes through their work. Please check the bulletin for the latest *Catholic Campaign against Global Poverty* activities.

The effort is part of the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty, sponsored by The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). *The Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty* invites Catholics in the United States to advocate for U.S. policies that foster economic and social development for people living in poverty throughout the world.

The campaign focuses on three areas of U.S. economic policy:

- Trade: Shaping U.S. trade policies so that overcoming poverty and promoting human development are central priorities.
- Aid: Supporting effective programs that foster long-term development and empowerment of the poor.
- Debt: Eliminating the debt of the poorest countries in ways that reduce poverty and promote dignity. All U.S. policy-making ought to promote coordination and consistency among trade, aid and debt policies to combat poverty and hunger.

For more information on the campaign visit [www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty).

### *Week Two*

#### *Making Trade Fair*

When the Honduran government entered a trade agreement that opened its markets to U.S. imports in the early 1990's, Maria Angeles Amaya of Santa Cruz de Yojoa lost her rice farm. Honduran rice farming 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 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. The Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty calls for the U.S. to make overcoming poverty central to trade policy, starting with agriculture.



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This week you can:

- Take the Pledge to Combat Global Poverty and pray for those struggling economically. Visit [www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty).
- Learn more about how to make trade agreements fair by visiting [www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty).
- Learn about and purchase products that are Fair Trade Certified by visiting [www.crsfairtrade.org](http://www.crsfairtrade.org).

## *Week Three*

### *Making Foreign Aid effective*

For generations, Mulalem Belachew's family and village have struggled with drought in Ethiopia. Through Catholic Relief Services and the U.S. government's Food for Peace program, he and his village have transformed their once eroded hillside by terracing the land to capture water, cultivating drought resistant seeds, and building wells that make it easier to care for their homes and animals. This long-term development assistance has helped the families of Mulalem's village turn their lives around. They are less dependent on emergency food and are able to live in dignity with hope for the future.

U.S. foreign assistance is most visible when tragic emergencies happen, such as the brutal tsunami in Asia. However, even when there is no crisis, U.S. aid is essential to help fund long-term strategies to combat poverty and tackle more systemic problems—providing education for children, establishing agricultural practices that help family farmers resist drought and disasters, funding banking programs that help marginalized women support themselves and their children. U.S. aid to help poor communities both weather emergencies and become self sufficient for the long term is key to reducing global poverty. The Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty calls for our nation to increase and reform development aid to poor countries to improve the lives and dignity of all God's children.

- Take the Pledge to Combat Global Poverty and pray for those struggling economically. Visit [www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty).
- Learn more about how to make sure aid is distributed effectively by visiting [www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty).

## *Week Four*

### *Forgiving Global Debt*

The mothers who have lined up outside of the Consolata Sisters Dispensary in Tanzania are waiting. They are waiting to find out if the babies in their arms are HIV-positive like themselves. They are waiting for medical care. And along with the rest of the 25 million people living with HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa, they are waiting for policies and programs that will help respond to the pandemic that is sweeping the continent. But because they live in one of the world's poorest and most indebted countries, these women and their children will wait a long time.



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Despite initiatives advocated by our Church and others to reduce the foreign debt of the world's poorest countries over the last several years, many countries still have heavy debt burdens. The 34 poorest African nations – a majority of the world's least developed countries – had a combined foreign debt of \$106 billion in 2002. Because they must make payments on this debt, it is nearly impossible for many poor countries to invest adequately in HIV/AIDS care and prevention, to feed their people in times of natural disaster and conflict, and at the same time to foster development that is essential for people to rise out of poverty. The Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty calls for the U.S. to promote greater debt relief and reforms that pave the way for development.

- Take the Pledge to Combat Global Poverty and pray for those struggling economically. Visit [www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty).
- Learn more about how debt forgiveness reduces poverty by visiting [www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty).

## *Optional fifth week*

### *Global justice takes more than a few weeks*

Thanks for participating in our parish's focus on poverty as part of the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty. Hopefully, our activities have given you some ideas for staying involved in the issues of trade, aid and debt all year long.

You can stay involved by:

- Signing up to receive information, resources and action alerts on policies that affect trade, aid and debt by sending an email to [sdwpmailing@usccb.org](mailto:sdwpmailing@usccb.org) or visiting [www.catholicrelief.org/legislativenetwork.cfm](http://www.catholicrelief.org/legislativenetwork.cfm).
- Purchasing Fair Trade Certified items and encouraging local merchants to carry them. For information, please visit <http://www.crsfairtrade.org/index.cfm>.
- Financially supporting organizations which are working to combat global poverty.
- Weaving prayer, education and actions on Global Poverty into parish and family life throughout the year by visiting [www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty) for tips and activities.