
Tools for Educating and Advocating on Poverty and Unemployment *February 14, 2012*

2012 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

Faithful Citizenship:

Protecting Human Life and Dignity, Promoting the Common Good

Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

catholicsocialministrygathering.org

Poverty



Catholic Social Teaching on Poverty, an Option for the Poor, and the Common Good

God is Love (Deus Caritas Est)

Pope Benedict XVI, 2005

“... love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to [the Church] as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word” (no. 22).

A Place at the Table:

A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to

Respect the Dignity of All Gods Children

U.S. Catholic Bishops, 2002

“The Catholic way is to recognize the essential role and the complementary responsibilities of families, communities, the market, and government to work together to overcome poverty and advance human dignity” (p. 18).

In 2010...

- *the poverty rate in America was **15.1** percent...*
- ***20.4** million people lived in deep poverty...*
- ***1/3** of the country's total population...*

***46.2** million people*

*less than **\$11,000**/year*

lived in or near poverty (less than twice the poverty level)

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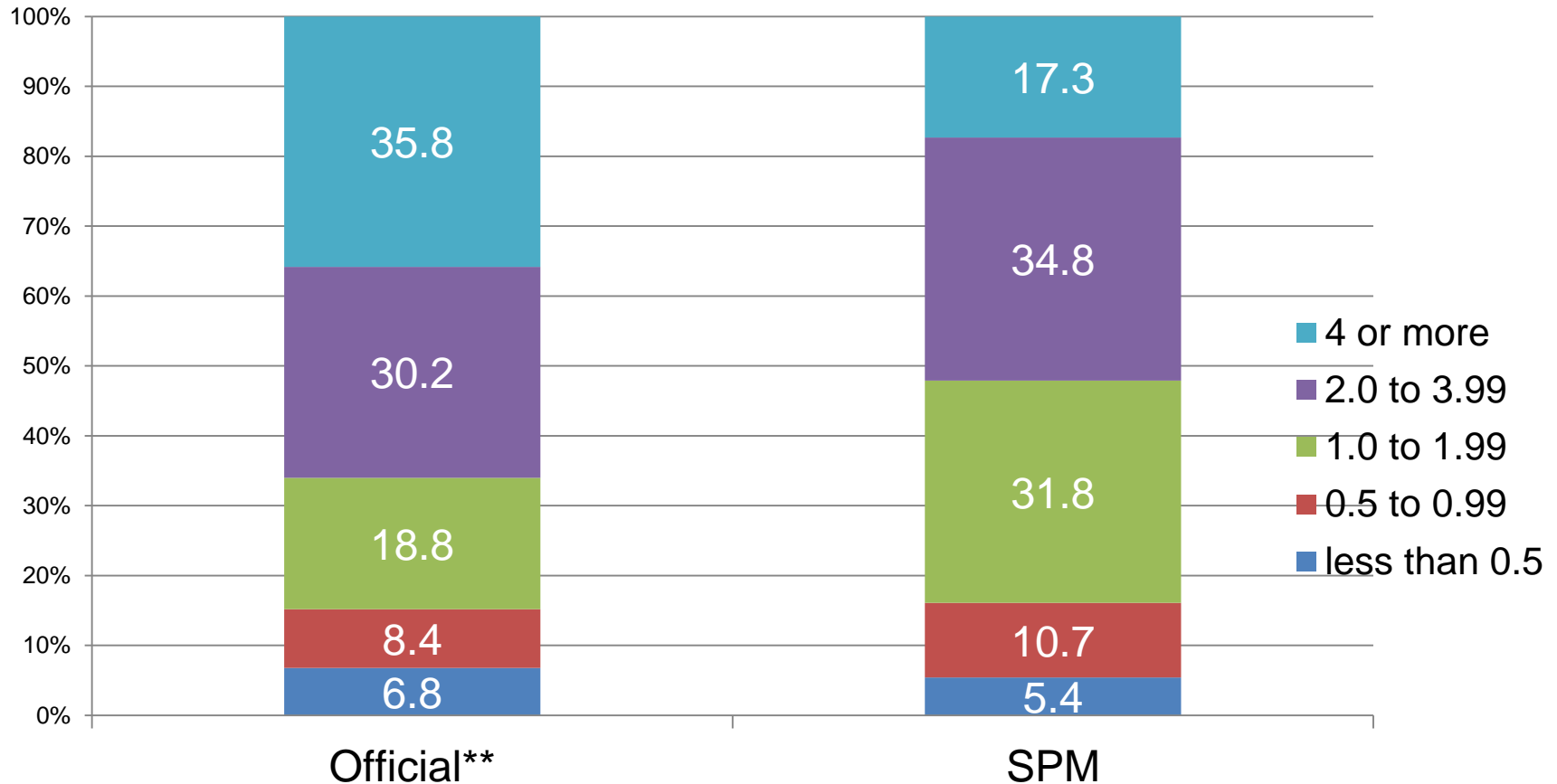
- *the poverty rate in America was **16.0** percent...*
- ***16.2** million people lived in deep poverty...*
- ***1/2** of the country's total population...*

***49.1** million people
less than **\$12,150**/year
lived in or near poverty (less than twice the
poverty level)*

Poverty



Distribution of People by Ratio of Resources to Poverty Threshold: 2010



** Includes unrelated individuals under age 15. Source: Current Population Survey, 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Unemployment



Blessed John Paul II

“The obligation to provide unemployment benefits, that is to say, the duty to make suitable grants indispensable for the subsistence of unemployed workers and their families, is a duty springing from the fundamental principle of the moral order in this sphere, namely the principle of the common use of goods or, to put it in another and still simpler way, **the right to life and subsistence.**”

Laborem Exercens, No. 18

Pope Benedict XVI

No consideration of the problems associated with development could fail to highlight the **direct link between poverty and unemployment**. In many cases, poverty results from a violation of the dignity of human work, either because work opportunities are limited (through unemployment or underemployment), or “because a **low value is put on work and the rights that flow from it**, especially the right to a just wage and to the personal security of the worker and his or her family.

Caritas In Veritate, No. 63

- 23.8 million unemployed/
underemployed (real rate 15.1%)
- Average length of joblessness is 10 months
- 4 job seekers for every 1 job opening
- Great amount of jobs created in recovery have been low-income

Our Framework (Dolan letter)



A screenshot of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website. The page title is "LETTER TO BISHOPS ON ECONOMIC SITUATION" dated September 15, 2011. The article text begins with "Dear Brother Bishops, The Administrative Committee urged me to write you on an important matter for our Church and nation. During our recent meeting, it was reported that 46 million people (15%) now live in poverty in the United States. This report follows dismal unemployment figures in recent months. For us as bishops, these numbers are not statistics, but people suffering and wounded in their human dignity. They are parents who cannot feed their children, families that have lost their homes and jobless workers who have lost not only income, but also a sense of their place in society. For us, each of these persons is a child of God with innate human dignity and rights that deserve respect. These numbers bring home to us the human costs and moral consequences of a broken economy that cannot fully utilize the talents, energy and work of all our people. We know the terrible toll the current economic turmoil is taking on families and communities. In our own Catholic dioceses we are struggling to match scarce resources with growing needs and have had to make very difficult financial, personnel and organizational choices." The article continues with "We discussed how best to respond to this urgent pastoral challenge. The Administrative Committee wanted something more than a public statement. Instead, they asked me to write to all the bishops and ask them to continue to all you can to fill in". The website header includes navigation links like "HOME | OFFICES | BOOKSTORE | CONTACT US | SHARE | SUBSCRIBE" and a search bar. A sidebar on the left lists various topics such as "Prayer and Worship", "Beliefs and Teachings", "Issues and Action", "Media", "Bible", "Catholic Giving", and "About USCCB". A "RELATED INFORMATION" section on the right lists links like "Prayer During Difficult Economic Times", "Bishops' Statements And Other 9/11 Resources", "CCHD Funded Organizations", "Frequently Asked Questions", and "Mandate And Goals For The Subcommittee On CCHD".

Preach

Educate

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/economic-justice-economy/letter-to-bishops-on-economic-situation.cfm>

Advocate

PREACH



[USCCB Unemployment and Poverty Resources Page](http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/unemployment-and-poverty.cfm)

<http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/unemployment-and-poverty.cfm>

- Homily helps
 - Prayers
 - Bulletin materials
 - Lenten resources – new!
 - Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship parish resources
-

ADVOCATE-*Resources from the U/P webpage*



[USCCB Unemployment and Poverty Resources Page](http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/unemployment-and-poverty.cfm)

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The screenshot shows the USCCB website interface. At the top left is the USCCB logo, a green circle with a white cross and the text "UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS". To its right is the text "UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS". At the top right is a navigation menu with links: HOME | OFFICES | BOOKSTORE | CONTACT US | SHARE | SUBSCRIBE. Below this is a search bar with the text "Buscar / Search:" and a "GO" button. A horizontal menu below the search bar contains links: Prayer and Worship, Beliefs and Teachings, Issues and Action, Media, Bible, Catholic Giving, and About USCCB. Below the menu is a row of utility links: PRINT | SHARE | CALENDAR | DIOCESAN LOCATOR, followed by three small square icons. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column has links for Strategic Plan, Priority Plan, and Leadership. The middle column shows the breadcrumb "USCCB > About Us > Justice, Peace And Human Development" followed by the heading "UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY" and a yellow highlighted quote: "In our Catholic parishes, schools, charities, hospitals and other ministries". The right column is titled "RELATED INFORMATION" and contains links for Domestic Poverty and Global Poverty.

ADVOCATE-Action Alerts



USCCB [Legislative Action Center](#)

The screenshot shows the USCCB website's navigation and content area. At the top left is the USCCB logo and name. To the right are navigation links: HOME | OFFICES | BOOKSTORE | CONTACT US | SHARE | SUBSCRIBE. Below this is a search bar with the text "Buscar / Search:" and a "GO" button. A green navigation bar contains the following menu items: Prayer and Worship, Beliefs and Teachings, Issues and Action, Media, Bible, Catholic Giving, and About USCCB. Below the navigation bar are links for PRINT | SHARE | CALENDAR | DIOCESAN LOCATOR and three small icons. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column has a "Get Involved" section with a highlighted "Take Action Now" link, followed by links for Religious Liberty, Faithful Citizenship, Marriage and Family, and Cultural Diversity. The middle column shows the breadcrumb "USCCB > Issues And Action > Take Action Now > CapWiz" and the heading "USCCB ACTION CENTER". Below this is a link for "Home · Elected Officials · Issues" and the heading "Legislative Action Center". The text "Please take the following actions:" is followed by a numbered list: 1. Join our Action Network and we'll send you important updates regarding our issues and how you can speak out on important issues. 2. Send an email to your elected officials and tell them to pass important legislation that you can follow right here. The right column has a "RELATED INFORMATION" section with links for "What Can You Do To Ensure A Safe And Healthy Environment", "Tips To Communicate With Federal And State Legislators", "Airways Advocacy: Becoming A Radio Talk Show Guest", and "Tips For Organizing A Successful Rally". At the bottom of this section is a link "see all 9 pages".

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/capwiz/index.cfm>

ADVOCATE-*A Circle of Protection*



A Circle of Protection:

A Statement on Why We Need to Protect Programs for the Poor

1. The nation needs to substantially reduce future deficits, but not at the expense of hungry and poor people.
2. Funding focused on reducing poverty should not be cut. It should be made as effective as possible, but not cut.
3. We urge our leaders to protect and improve poverty-focused development and humanitarian assistance to promote a better, safer world.
4. National leaders must review and consider tax revenues, military spending, and entitlements in the search for ways to share sacrifice and cut deficits.
5. A fundamental task is to create jobs and spur economic growth. Decent jobs at decent wages are the best path out of poverty, and restoring growth is a powerful way to reduce deficits.
6. The budget debate has a central moral dimension. Christians are asking how we protect "the least of these." "What would Jesus cut?" "How do we share sacrifice?"
7. As believers, we turn to God with prayer and fasting, to ask for guidance as our nation makes decisions about our priorities as a people.
8. God continues to shower our nation and the world with blessings. As Christians, we are rooted in the love of God in Jesus Christ. Our task is to share these blessings with love and justice and with a special priority for those who are poor.

ADVOCATE via E-Notes



- Notes for Neighbors transmitted tri-weekly
 - [Subscribe HERE](#)
- GradNet sent bi-weekly to JustFaith graduates
- JPHD semi-annual reports on what our advocacy has accomplished

ADVOCATE-Faith Advocates for Jobs



- faithadvocatesforjobs.wordpress.com/
- Congregation-level support to jobless
- Policy Advocacy
- Interfaith

TEACH-Poverty USA Facebook



<http://www.facebook.com/povertyusa>



An initiative of the
Catholic Campaign for
Human Development

Today, 46.2 million people in America are living below the poverty line.

That's more than ever before—and far more than the population of our largest state. Join us and help to break the cycle of poverty.

Wall

Info

Poverty USA

Comment Policy

Photos

Events

Poverty USA Like

Non-Profit Organization · Washington, District of Columbia



LIKE US and help to end poverty. For good.

POVERTY USA WE CAN END IT

Right now, nearly one in six of us lives in Poverty USA. Worse yet, one in five children.

Join CCHD in helping low-income people move themselves up and out of Poverty USA. Learn about community programs that break the cycle of poverty, improve communities, support self-sufficiency and encourage independence.

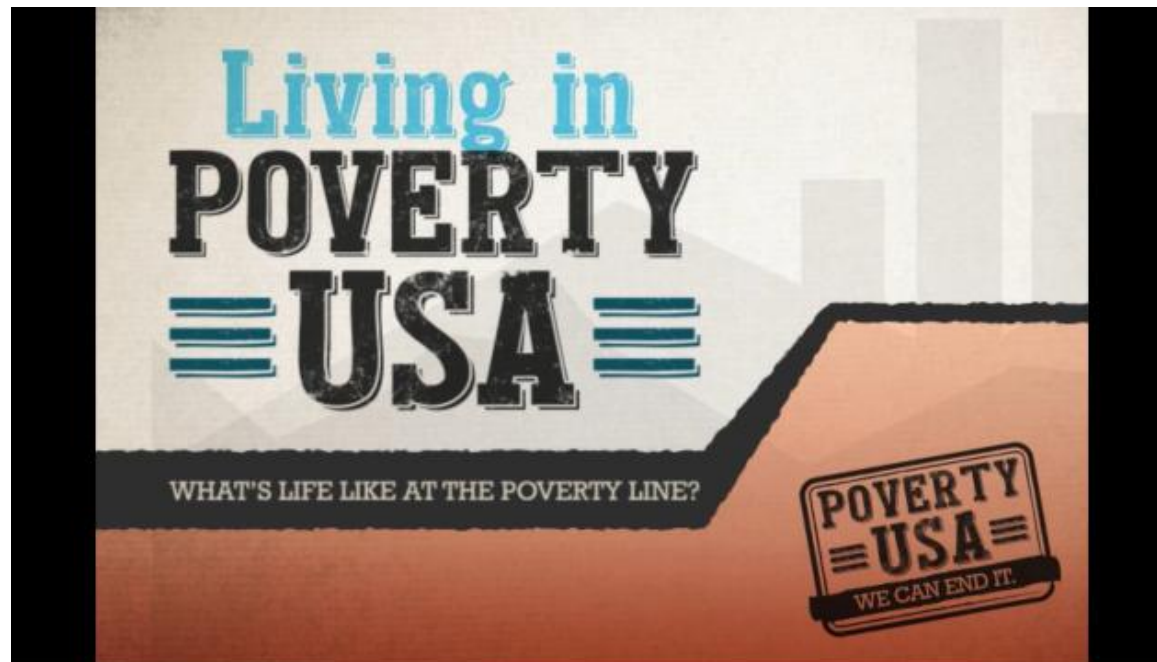
SIGN UP!
for action alerts

Daily Tip

Organize a letter-writing campaign for elected officials. They work!

Tour Poverty USA

TEACH-*Poverty Tour*



TEACH-Resources from the U/P webpage



[USCCB Unemployment and Poverty Resources Page](http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/unemployment-and-poverty.cfm)

<http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/unemployment-and-poverty.cfm>

A screenshot of the USCCB website's "Unemployment and Poverty" resources page. The page features the USCCB logo (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) on the left. A navigation menu includes "Prayer and Worship", "Beliefs and Teachings", "Issues and Action", "Media", "Bible", "Catholic Giving", and "About USCCB". Below the menu are links for "PRINT | SHARE | CALENDAR | DIOCESAN LOCATOR". The main content area shows the breadcrumb "USCCB > About Us > Justice, Peace And Human Development" followed by the heading "UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY". A yellow highlighted box contains the text: "In our Catholic parishes, schools, charities, hospitals and other ministries". On the right, a "RELATED INFORMATION" section lists "Domestic Poverty" and "Global Poverty". A search bar at the top right contains the text "Buscar / Search:" and a "GO" button. The top of the page has a navigation bar with links for "HOME | OFFICES | BOOKSTORE | CONTACT US | SHARE | SUBSCRIBE".

- CST Primers
- Pastoral Statements
- Partner Resources
- Other USCCB departments

TEACH-*First Friday for Food Security*



- [Facebook event](#)
 - Multi-office USCCB collaboration
 - Intended for individual and family use
 - Raises awareness
 - Incorporates prayer and action
-

TEACH-*Catholics Confront Global Poverty*



- Partnership with Catholic Relief Services
 - www.crs.org/globalpoverty
 - Seamless concern for human family experiencing domestic and global poverty
 - Complex realities of U.S. and international policies on people in poverty
-

Stack the Deck



- Popular education approach to sobering material
 - See issues differently
 - Effective adult methodology
 - Reflect – analyze – discuss
-

Q and A



- How could JPHD better assist you?
 - Webinars? If so, what topics?
 - More liturgical, prayer or formation resources?
 - Other?
-