

# SOCIAL JUSTICE NOTES...

Presented by the Peace and Justice Ministry

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**Catholic social teaching is a rich tradition that is rooted in the Scriptures and the lived experience of the people of God. The following are key themes at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching.**

## **We Believe**

**The Life and Dignity of the Human Person is sacred**

**We are Called to Family, Community and Participation**

**In the Human Rights and Responsibilities of People**

**In the Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

**In the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**

**We are called to be in Solidarity with people near and far**

**We are called to Care for God's Creation**



## **Our Faith**

It is written: "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. (2 Cor. 9:9-10)

A table is where people meet to make decisions—in neighborhoods, nations, and the global community. Many people have no place at the table. Their voices and needs are ignored or dismissed. ([A Place at the Table](#), USCCB, 2002)

## **Our World Today**

Economic turmoil has increased hunger and poverty in our country. In tough times, we must help people suffering in our own country. Yet as difficult as these problems are, on sheer scale, poor people in developing countries are suffering even greater levels of poverty and hunger.

We live in a world where 1.4 billion people are living on less than \$1.25 a day, and where 26,000 children under the age of 5 die because they do not have enough food, clean drinking water, and other basic necessities of life.

Earlier this year Bread for the World, Catholic Relief Services and their partner organizations launched a campaign calling upon the Congress to take steps to make U.S. foreign assistance more effective. Foreign aid reform means that resources will be better spent, with more coordination, greater accountability, and a strategy that directly addresses the key challenges the world faces today. A streamlined process will increase the value, impact, and transparency of U.S. international development investments. Better foreign assistance also means less waste and better value at a time when our government leaders must make hard economic choices.

Legislation to reform the U.S. government's foreign aid structure has been introduced into both the House of Representatives and the Senate. This legislation directs the President to develop and implement (a) a National Strategy for Global Development to further the U.S. foreign policy objective of reducing poverty and contributing to economic growth in developing countries, including responding to humanitarian crises, and (b) a system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance.

Reforming foreign assistance is in our nation's interest. In our increasingly interconnected world, investments in global development increase security and prosperity here in the United States and around the world.

## **Our Response...**

- Write a letter to your congressional representative asking him/her to cosponsor H.R. 2139, the Initiating Foreign Assistance Reform Act of 2009. See bulletin board and parish web site for sample letter.
- Learn more about how you can help confront global poverty. See Catholic Relief Services web site [www.crs.org/globalpoverty](http://www.crs.org/globalpoverty)
- Learn more about Bread for the World's 2009 Offering of Letters to Reduce Global Poverty. See [www.offeringofletters.org](http://www.offeringofletters.org)