



Director: Nora Jackson
Next Meeting: 1/26/05
7:30-9:30, Room 227

"For Unto us a child is born." Isaiah 9:6

"Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given," Isaiah declares. As we prepare to receive this Christ child anew on Christmas Day, our faith compels us to hear the cry of all children born to us, especially the poor. We must remember that every day millions of children are born who suffer from hunger and poverty and who will die of preventable disease.

If we are to receive the Christ child fully into our hearts, we must allow the Holy Spirit to work within us and shape our lives. In particular, we are called to take on God's passionate concern for the world's poor and oppressed. This Christmas, let us remember with Isaiah that the Child who brings light to those "who walk in darkness" tells us that if we "offer food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted," our own "light shall rise in the darkness" and our "gloom shall be like the noonday." (Isaiah 58)

The Call to Respond

Three of the most effective ways to address global poverty are through:

- **fair trade** practices among nations
- reduction of the unpayable **debt** that keeps many countries impoverished
- more and better **aid** to poor nations.

There is new hope of greater political will to end hunger and poverty. In the Catholic community, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) have launched a *Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty*.

At the same time, the ONE Campaign in the United States, along with the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, have engaged millions of people around the world in calling for an end to extreme poverty, hunger and disease.

An unprecedented array of religious and secular groups has organized to address the root causes of these problems. They are responding through charity and asking for justice by calling on elected officials to make genuine human development for the poorest people and nations a top policy priority.

More and more Catholics are finding ways of acting on their faith to advocate for debt cancellation, trade justice and significant increases in poverty-focused development aid. The Christmas Season can be our time to learn about these efforts, pray for their effectiveness and take action ourselves.

For more information, visit the following websites:

www.usccb.org/globalpoverty

www.catholicrelief.org/globalpoverty