



The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions. Over the next several weeks, this column will briefly discuss the need for each goal and the specific targets tied to each.

In many ways the MDGs mirror our rich Catholic social teaching found in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. They place the highest priority on the dignity of life, stewardship of the environment and solidarity with our brothers and sisters worldwide. They demand the most basic of human rights and focus on immediate and persistent action. Below is a summary of the Millennium Goals that will be reviewed:

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality; Empower Women

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria & Other Diseases

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a Global Development Partnership

The following indicators are monitored separately for the least developed countries:

- Work with developing countries to develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth
- Join pharmaceutical companies in providing access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- Join the private sector in offering the benefits of new technologies, particularly in information and communications

"We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals – worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries – but only if we break with business as usual. We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals."

--U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi A. Annan

Next Meeting: 2/23/06

7:30-9:30, Room 227

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