



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

## **Why a Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty?**

*If a brother or a sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them “go in peace, keep warm and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So, also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James 2:15-16)*

How can we say “go in peace” to a Sudanese child who has lost her parents in war? How can we say “keep warm” to a lost Indonesian left homeless in the wake of a tsunami? How can we say “eat well” to a Haitian family struggling to survive in one of the poorest nations on earth? As believers, we cannot.

Disasters and emergencies hit the poor the hardest, and people of faith are quick to respond with food, shelter, clothing and medical care. **But even our most generous responses to such disasters are not sufficient to address the pervasive poverty lived by our brothers and sisters around the world.**

We must attack the causes of global poverty and deprivation so the poor rise above the devastating effects of poverty and live with dignity. Justice requires the faithful to call upon elected officials and policy makers to make human development for the poorest people and nations a top priority.

### **Join the effort**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) invite Catholics throughout the U.S. to join in our Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty. The campaign focuses on three areas of U.S. policy: (1) A **Trade** focus on poverty and human development; (2) **Aid** programs that empower the poor and foster long-term development; and (3) **Debt** elimination to reduce poverty and promote dignity in the poorest countries.

### **Making an option for the poor**

This campaign begins with an essential theme of Catholic social teaching: the preferential option for the poor. It compels Catholics to ask basic questions of U.S. policy makers: How do our foreign policies affect the world’s poor? Do they alleviate poverty or exacerbate it? Do they foster development or impede it? As citizens in a powerful democracy and affluent nation we have the right to raise these questions. As people of faith we have the responsibility to work for effective measures that protect all God’s children.

### **As part of the Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty you can:**

1. Pray for the impoverished and all who stand in solidarity with the poor.
2. Learn about Catholic Social Teaching, U.S. economic policies and the world’s poor.
3. Ask elected officials for changes in U.S. policy.
4. Educate your parish and community about the preferential option for the poor

For more on the Campaign Against Global Poverty, visit:

[www.usccb.org/globalpoverty](http://www.usccb.org/globalpoverty)  
[www.catholicrelief.org/globalpoverty](http://www.catholicrelief.org/globalpoverty)