



Over the next several weeks, we will publish a series entitled: “*Who is Rich & Who is Poor.*” It is our hope that the upcoming columns will help define poverty nationally and globally and prepare the parish for the Church’s Lenten mission on extreme poverty.

We begin our series with domestic poverty.

“THE RICHEST NATION IN THE WORLD”

True or False?

1. 37 million Americans live below the poverty line.
2. 46 million Americans do not have health insurance.
3. The majority of people living below the poverty line are African American.
4. The poverty rates for African Americans and Hispanics in the United States are nearly three times higher than the poverty rate for Whites.
5. A full-time job that pays minimum wage can lift a family out of poverty
6. The state with the highest poverty in 2005 was Arkansas at 18.5%.
7. 1 million people will experience homelessness in a given year.
8. Nearly 7 million U.S. children under 18 are poor.
9. Nearly one in ten children under 18 is poor.
10. Men and women are equally likely to be poor.
11. The poverty rate is highest among the elderly.
12. Most poor people live inside America’s central cities. 13. Only 6.3% of 2-parent families are poor.
14. One in 3 families headed by a single black or Hispanic woman is poor.
15. One full-time minimum-wage worker in the U.S. earns \$10,712 annually, which is below the poverty line for a family of three.
16. Every minute, a baby is born into poverty.

Quiz Answers

1. True.
2. True.
3. False. The majority below the poverty line are white.
4. True. African Americans (24.7%); Hispanics (21.9%); Caucasians (8.6%).
5. False. \$5.15/hr earns \$10,712 a year before taxes.
6. False. D.C. was highest at 21.3%, followed by Mississippi at 20.1%.
7. False. 3.5 million people; 1.35 million are children
8. False. Almost 13 million American children under 18 were poor in 2005.
9. False. 17.6% of children under 18 were poor in 2005.
10. False. Female-led households comprise 70% of those that are poor.
11. False. The poverty rate is highest among children.
12. False. The majority live in suburban and rural areas.
13. True.
14. True.
15. True.
16. False. A baby is born into poverty every 35 seconds.

* Based on Federal poverty standards: a family of four living on less than \$20,000/ year; a family of 3, on less than \$16,600.