

20 CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE POVERTY IN AMERICA

Things You Can do to Address Poverty

Reflect

- 1) Pray for those whose lives are impacted by poverty. (<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1141>)
- 2) Use Scripture to deepen your understanding of poverty. (<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1170>)
- 3) Familiarize yourself with Catholic social teaching on the poor. (<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1172>)

Get Informed

- 4) Educate yourself about poverty in your community and in the United States. Read *Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good* and other facts (<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1158>) and stories about poverty. Also, use the study guide to the poverty paper.
- 5) Identify an issue (such as health care, housing, hunger, economic security, or moral budget priorities) that you are passionate about and can take action on.
- 6) Make yourself familiar with legislation and policy proposals that impact those low-income families and individuals. Visit Catholic Charities USA's advocacy page. (<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/advocacy>)
- 7) Reach out to those living in poverty in your community by participating in parish and community activities and service.

Get Organized

- 8) Invite those who are directly impacted by poverty to join your discussions of the paper and become participants in the actions you all take to address poverty.
- 9) Identify existing resources or advocacy groups working on your issue in your community.
- 10) Reach out to those living in poverty in your community by participating in parish and community activities and service.
- 11) Develop a working group within your church and community- to help spread the word and raise concerns about "your issue"- make sure to involve some low-income families on your work group.
- 12) Share what you have learned with others in your community and encourage them to take action too.

Get Involved

- 13) Let your voice be heard by involving yourself in advocacy activities at the local, state and national levels. Visit Catholic Charities USA's advocacy page. (<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/advocacy>)
- 14) Identify key power brokers within your church and community who can assist you with your advocacy efforts.
- 15) Join your diocesan or Catholic Charities legislative network and become an active participant.
- 16) Contact your local elected officials (<http://capwiz.com/catholiccharitiesusa/home/>) with specific concerns about poverty in your community and ask for a staff contact to follow up with. Follow up with that staff.
- 17) Engage your state legislators and U.S. Congressional members. Visit Catholic Charities USA's Legislative Action Center. (<http://capwiz.com/catholiccharitiesusa/home/>)
- 18) Once you have a strong understanding of your issue, have organized some community support, and know what changes you would like to see, engage your local media to call attention to what is happening in your community. Visit Catholic Charities USA's Legislative Action Center. (<http://capwiz.com/catholiccharitiesusa/home/>)

Volunteer

- 19) Learn about volunteering with Catholic Charities in your community. (<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1161>) Contact your local Catholic Charities agency to find out how you can serve your community. (<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1161>)

Donate

- 20) Visit www.Catholic.Charities.USA.org to learn how to Support Catholic Charities' efforts.

Catholic Charities USA

Sixty-Six Canal Center Plaza
Suite 600
Alexandria, VA 22314
t: 703.549.1390 • f: 703.549.1656
www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org



Endorse the Campaign

<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/poverty>