
Tools for Educating and Advocating on Poverty and Unemployment *February 14, 2012*

2012 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

Faithful Citizenship:

Protecting Human Life and Dignity, Promoting the Common Good

Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

catholicsocialministrygathering.org

Poverty



Catholic Social Teaching on Poverty, an Option for the Poor, and the Common Good

God is Love (Deus Caritas Est)

Pope Benedict XVI, 2005

“... love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to [the Church] as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word” (no. 22).

A Place at the Table:

A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to

Respect the Dignity of All Gods Children

U.S. Catholic Bishops, 2002

“The Catholic way is to recognize the essential role and the complementary responsibilities of families, communities, the market, and government to work together to overcome poverty and advance human dignity” (p. 18).

In 2010...

- *the poverty rate in America was **15.1** percent...*
- ***20.4** million people lived in deep poverty...*
- ***1/3** of the country's total population...*

***46.2** million people*

*less than **\$11,000**/year*

lived in or near poverty (less than twice the poverty level)

Poverty



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“The Catholic way is to recognize the essential role and the complementary responsibilities of families, communities, the market, and government to work together to overcome poverty and advance human dignity” (p. 18).

In 2010...

- *the poverty rate in America was **16.0** percent...*
- ***16.2** million people lived in deep poverty...*
- ***1/2** of the country's total population...*

***49.1** million people*

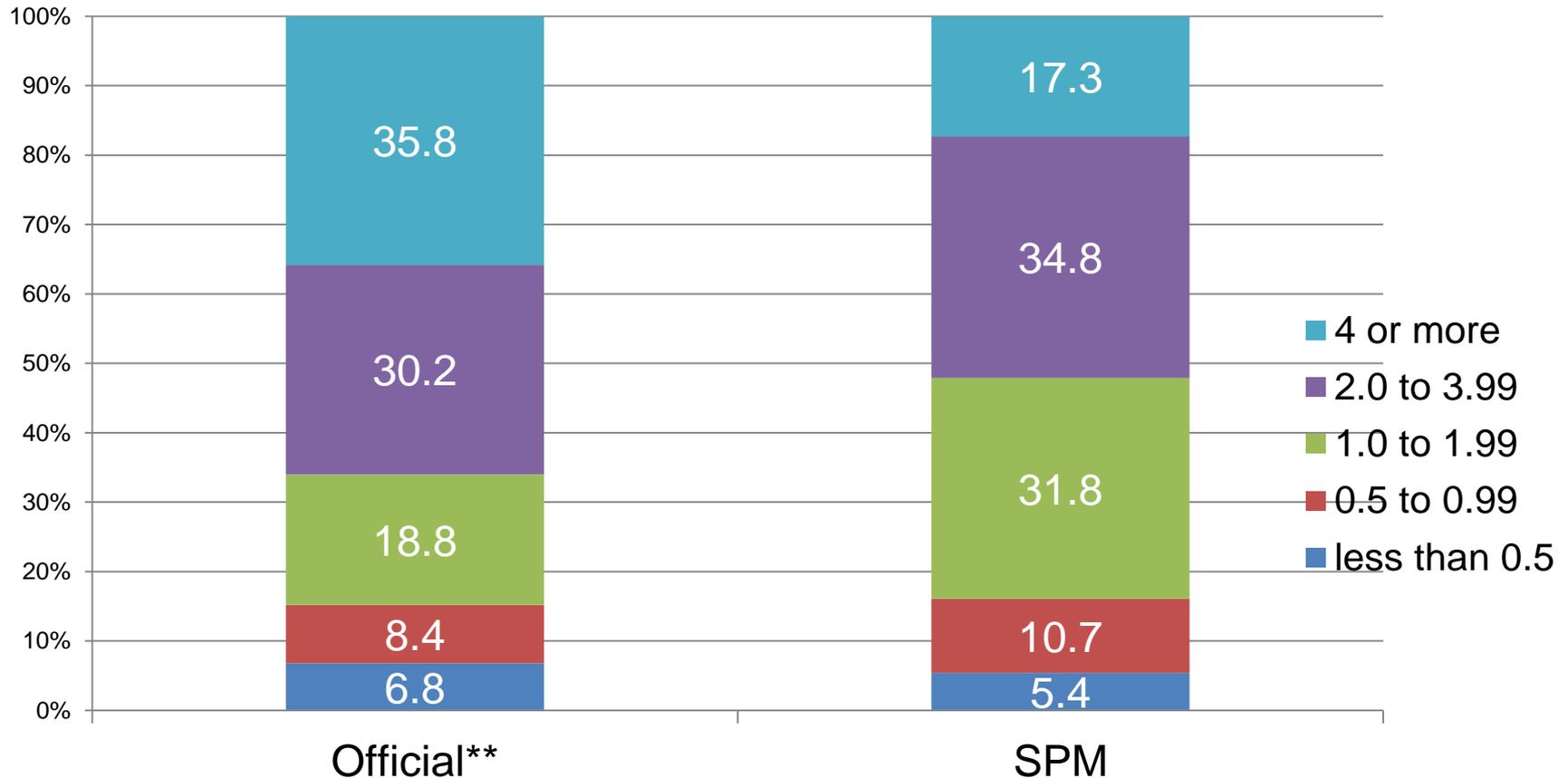
*less than **\$12,150**/year*

lived in or near poverty (less than twice the poverty level)

Poverty



Distribution of People by Ratio of Resources to Poverty Threshold: 2010



** Includes unrelated individuals under age 15. Source: Current Population Survey, 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Unemployment



Blessed John Paul II

“The obligation to provide unemployment benefits, that is to say, the duty to make suitable grants indispensable for the subsistence of unemployed workers and their families, is a duty springing from the fundamental principle of the moral order in this sphere, namely the principle of the common use of goods or, to put it in another and still simpler way, **the right to life and subsistence.**”

Laborem Exercens, No. 18

Pope Benedict XVI

No consideration of the problems associated with development could fail to highlight the **direct link between poverty and unemployment**. In many cases, poverty results from a violation of the dignity of human work, either because work opportunities are limited (through unemployment or underemployment), or “because a **low value is put on work and the rights that flow from it**, especially the right to a just wage and to the personal security of the worker and his or her family.

Caritas In Veritate, No. 63

- 23.8 million unemployed/
underemployed (real rate 15.1%)
- Average length of joblessness is 10
months
- 4 job seekers for every 1 job
opening
- Great amount of jobs created in
recovery have been low-income

Our Framework (Dolan letter)



A screenshot of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website. The page title is "LETTER TO BISHOPS ON ECONOMIC SITUATION" dated September 15, 2011. The content begins with "Dear Brother Bishops," and discusses the economic challenges facing the United States, including unemployment and poverty, and the impact on human dignity. The page includes a navigation menu with categories like "Prayer and Worship", "Beliefs and Teachings", "Issues and Action", "Media", "Bible", "Catholic Giving", and "About USCCB". A sidebar on the left lists various topics such as "Human Life and Dignity", "Abortion", "Agriculture", and "Asylum". A "RELATED INFORMATION" section on the right lists links to "Prayer During Difficult Economic Times", "Bishops' Statements And Other 9/11 Resources", "CCHD Funded Organizations", and "Frequently Asked Questions".

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/economic-justice-economy/letter-to-bishops-on-economic-situation.cfm>

Preach

Educate

Advocate

PREACH



[USCCB Unemployment and Poverty Resources Page](http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/unemployment-and-poverty.cfm)

<http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/unemployment-and-poverty.cfm>

- Homily helps
 - Prayers
 - Bulletin materials
 - Lenten resources – new!
 - Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship parish resources
-

ADVOCATE-*Resources from the U/P webpage*



[USCCB Unemployment and Poverty Resources Page](http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/unemployment-and-poverty.cfm)

<http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/unemployment-and-poverty.cfm>

A screenshot of the USCCB website. At the top left is the USCCB logo, a green circle with a white cross and the text "UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS". To its right is the text "UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS". At the top right is a navigation menu with links: HOME | OFFICES | BOOKSTORE | CONTACT US | SHARE | SUBSCRIBE. Below this is a search bar with the text "Buscar / Search:" and a "GO" button. A horizontal menu below the search bar contains links: Prayer and Worship, Beliefs and Teachings, Issues and Action, Media, Bible, Catholic Giving, and About USCCB. Below the menu are links: PRINT | SHARE | CALENDAR | DIOCESAN LOCATOR. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: USCCB > About Us > Justice, Peace And Human Development. Below this is the title "UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY" in green. A yellow highlighted box contains the text: "In our Catholic parishes, schools, charities, hospitals and other ministries". To the right is a "RELATED INFORMATION" section with links: Domestic Poverty and Global Poverty. At the bottom right of the screenshot are three small icons: a left arrow, a right arrow, and a magnifying glass.

ADVOCATE-Action Alerts



USCCB [Legislative Action Center](#)

A screenshot of the USCCB website's "Legislative Action Center" page. The page has a green header with the USCCB logo and navigation links. Below the header is a search bar and a menu with categories like "Prayer and Worship" and "Issues and Action". The main content area is titled "USCCB ACTION CENTER" and includes a breadcrumb trail, a list of links, and a section titled "Legislative Action Center" with a list of actions for users to take. A sidebar on the left contains a "Get Involved" section with links to "Take Action Now" and other resources. A "RELATED INFORMATION" section on the right lists various advocacy topics.

HOME | OFFICES | BOOKSTORE | CONTACT US | SHARE | SUBSCRIBE

Buscar / Search: GO

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Prayer and Worship | Beliefs and Teachings | Issues and Action | Media | Bible | Catholic Giving | About USCCB

PRINT | SHARE | CALENDAR | DIOCESAN LOCATOR

Get Involved

Take Action Now

Pray

Action Center

Contact Elected Officials

Legislative Alerts and Updates

Signup for Our Action Alerts

Religious Liberty

Faithful Citizenship

Marriage and Family

Cultural Diversity

USCCB > Issues And Action > Take Action Now > CapWiz

USCCB ACTION CENTER

[Home](#) • [Elected Officials](#) • [Issues](#)

Legislative Action Center

Please take the following actions:

1. Join our Action Network and we'll send you important updates regarding our issues and how you can speak out on important issues.
2. [Send an email to your elected officials](#) and tell them to pass important legislation that you can follow right here.

RELATED INFORMATION

What Can You Do To Ensure A Safe And Healthy Environment

Tips To Communicate With Federal And State Legislators

Airways Advocacy: Becoming A Radio Talk Show Guest

Tips For Organizing A Successful Rally

Justice, Peace And Human Development Internships

[see all 9 pages](#)

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/capwiz/index.cfm>

ADVOCATE-*A Circle of Protection*



A Circle of Protection:

A Statement on Why We Need to Protect Programs for the Poor

1. The nation needs to substantially reduce future deficits, but not at the expense of hungry and poor people.
2. Funding focused on reducing poverty should not be cut. It should be made as effective as possible, but not cut.
3. We urge our leaders to protect and improve poverty-focused development and humanitarian assistance to promote a better, safer world.
4. National leaders must review and consider tax revenues, military spending, and entitlements in the search for ways to share sacrifice and cut deficits.
5. A fundamental task is to create jobs and spur economic growth. Decent jobs at decent wages are the best path out of poverty, and restoring growth is a powerful way to reduce deficits.
6. The budget debate has a central moral dimension. Christians are asking how we protect "the least of these." "What would Jesus cut?" "How do we share sacrifice?"
7. As believers, we turn to God with prayer and fasting, to ask for guidance as our nation makes decisions about our priorities as a people.
8. God continues to shower our nation and the world with blessings. As Christians, we are rooted in the love of God in Jesus Christ. Our task is to share these blessings with love and justice and with a special priority for those who are poor.

ADVOCATE via E-Notes



- Notes for Neighbors transmitted tri-weekly
 - [Subscribe HERE](#)

 - GradNet sent bi-weekly to JustFaith graduates

 - JPHD semi-annual reports on what our advocacy has accomplished
-

ADVOCATE-Faith Advocates for Jobs



- faithadvocatesforjobs.wordpress.com/
- Congregation-level support to jobless
- Policy Advocacy
- Interfaith

TEACH-Poverty USA Facebook



<http://www.facebook.com/povertyusa>



An initiative of the
Catholic Campaign for
Human Development

Today, 46.2 million people in America are living below the poverty line.

That's more than ever before—and far more than the population of our largest state. Join us and help to break the cycle of poverty.

- Wall
- Info
- Poverty USA**
- Comment Policy
- Photos
- Events

Poverty USA Like

Non-Profit Organization · Washington, District of Columbia



LIKE US and help to end poverty. For good.

POVERTY USA WE CAN END IT

Right now, nearly one in six of us lives in Poverty USA. Worse yet, one in five children.

Join CCHD in helping low-income people move themselves up and out of Poverty USA. Learn about community programs that break the cycle of poverty, improve communities, support self-sufficiency and encourage independence.

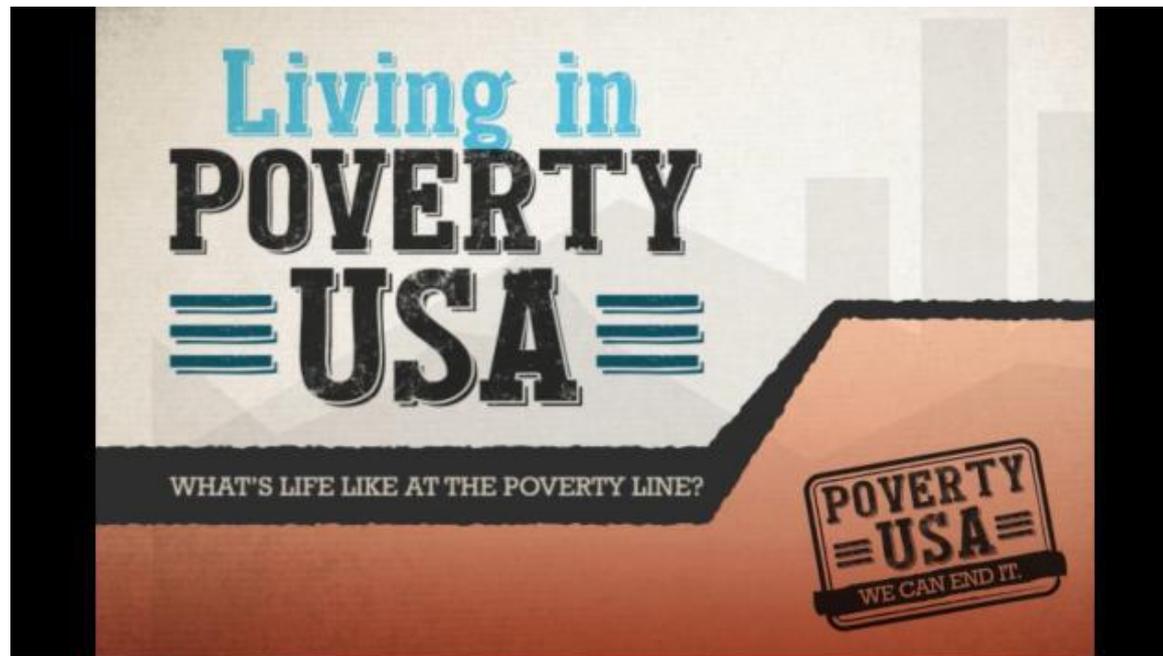
SIGN UP!
for action alerts

Daily Tip

Organize a letter—writing campaign for elected officials. They work!

Tour Poverty USA

TEACH-*Poverty Tour*



TEACH-Resources from the U/P webpage



[USCCB Unemployment and Poverty Resources Page](http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/unemployment-and-poverty.cfm)

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A screenshot of the USCCB website's "Unemployment and Poverty" page. The page features the USCCB logo (a green circle with a white cross) and the text "UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS". A navigation menu includes "Prayer and Worship", "Beliefs and Teachings", "Issues and Action", "Media", "Bible", "Catholic Giving", and "About USCCB". A search bar with the text "Buscar / Search:" and a "GO" button is visible. Below the navigation menu, there are links for "Strategic Plan", "Priority Plan", and "Leadership". The main content area shows the breadcrumb "USCCB > About Us > Justice, Peace And Human Development" followed by the heading "UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY". A quote is partially visible: "In our Catholic parishes, schools, charities, hospitals and other ministries". A "RELATED INFORMATION" section lists "Domestic Poverty" and "Global Poverty".

- CST Primers
- Pastoral Statements
- Partner Resources
- Other USCCB departments

TEACH-*First Friday for Food Security*



- [Facebook event](#)
 - Multi-office USCCB collaboration
 - Intended for individual and family use
 - Raises awareness
 - Incorporates prayer and action
-

TEACH-*Catholics Confront Global Poverty*



- Partnership with Catholic Relief Services
 - www.crs.org/globalpoverty
 - Seamless concern for human family experiencing domestic and global poverty
 - Complex realities of U.S. and international policies on people in poverty
-

Stack the Deck



- Popular education approach to sobering material
 - See issues differently
 - Effective adult methodology
 - Reflect – analyze – discuss
-

Q and A



- How could JPHD better assist you?
 - Webinars? If so, what topics?
 - More liturgical, prayer or formation resources?
 - Other?
-