

April 2, 2017

ISSUE: Hunger

Some 795 million people in the **world** do not have enough food to lead a healthy active life. That's about one in nine people on earth. The vast majority of the world's hungry people **live in developing countries** where 12.9 percent of the population are undernourished.

Asia is the continent with the hungriest people - two thirds of the total. The percentage in southern Asia has fallen in recent years but in western Asia it has increased slightly.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the highest *prevalence* (percentage of population) of hunger. One person in four there is undernourished.

Poor nutrition causes **nearly half (45%) of deaths** in children under five - 3.1 million children each year.

One out of six children -- roughly 100 million -- in developing countries is **underweight**.

One in four of the world's **children is stunted**. In developing countries the proportion can rise to one in three.

66 million primary school-age **children attend classes hungry** across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone. **\$3.2 billion** is needed per year to reach all 66 million hungry school-age children.

TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture, or is the position of the archdiocese or USCCB: Isaiah 58:10 If you give some of your own food to [feed] those who are hungry and to satisfy [the needs of] those who are humble, then your light will rise in the dark, and your darkness will become as bright as the noonday sun.

Catholic Relief Services Position: As a prominent participant in U.S. government international food aid programs, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) uses food aid, also known as P.L. 480 Title II food aid, to provide food to people who are hungry during emergencies such as wars and natural disasters and for long-term development projects in education, health and agriculture. CRS has also joined in advancing new approaches to global food security to promote "The Roadmap to End Global Hunger."

ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others: Donate to the Rice Bowl program this month by turning in your rice bowls that were distributed earlier in Lent, or by making a donation to the Rice Bowl program in a separate envelope.

MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats>

April 9, 2017

ISSUE: Hunger in the United States

- 43.1 million People (13.5 percent) were in poverty. (2015)
- 24.4 million (12.4 percent) of people ages 18-64 were in poverty. (2015)
- 14.5 million (19.7 percent) children under the age of 18 were in poverty. (2015)
- 4.2 million (8.8 percent) seniors 65 and older were in poverty.(2015)
- The overall poverty rate according to the Supplemental Poverty Measure is 14.3 percent, significantly higher than the official poverty rate of 13.5 percent.[ii] (2015)
- Under the Supplemental Poverty Measure, there are 45.7 million people living in poverty, 2.6 million more than are represented by the official poverty measure (43.1 million).[iii] (2015)

Food Insecurity and Very Low Food Security [iv] In 2015:

- 42.2 million Americans lived in food insecure households, including 29.1 million adults and 13.1 million children.
- 13 percent of households (15.8 million households) were food insecure.
- 5 percent of households (6.3 million households) experienced very low food security.
- Households with children reported food insecurity at a significantly higher rate than those without children, 17 percent compared to 11 percent.
- Households that had higher rates of food insecurity than the national average included households with children (17%), especially households with children headed by single women (30%) or single men (22%), Black non-Hispanic households (22%) and Hispanic households (19%).

TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture, or is the position of the archdiocese or USCCB:

Isaiah 58:7 Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

The Old Testament calls us to care for the land and provide for those who need food, especially those who are poor and outcast. The tradition of the Sabbath Year is one example: "But during the seventh year the land shall have a complete rest, a sabbath for the Lord, when you may

neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.ö (Lv 25:4) God explains to Moses that the land should be used to provide food for all who need it: öWhile the land has its sabbath, all its produce will be food equally for you yourself and . . . for your hired help and the tenants who live with you . . .ö (Lv 25:6)

Time and again Jesus warned us against selfishness and greed and called us to feed the hungry and show special concern for those who are poor. In the story of the Last Judgment, Jesus reminds us that one of the fundamental measures of our lives will be how we cared for people in need: öFor I was hungry and you gave me food.ö (Mt 25:35)

ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

Donate to the Rice Bowl program this month by turning in your rice bowls that were distributed earlier in Lent, or by making a donation to the Rice Bowl program in a separate envelope. Remember a portion of the donations stays in our archdiocese.

MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/hunger-and-poverty/hunger-and-poverty-fact-sheet>

April 16, 2017

ISSUE: Hunger in Indiana

In Indiana one in 5 households with children struggles to afford enough food to meet their nutritional needs.

Indiana ranks 23 out of 49 states and the District of Columbia, with 19.8 percent of households with children in 2014-2015 reporting they were unable to afford enough food.

Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index project: 15 percent of the population in Indiana is food insecure – 1,009,710 people, including 335,410 children. [Map the Meal Gap 2016](#), an annual study by Feeding America

TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture, or is the position of the archdiocese or USCCB:
Ezekiel 18:7 He is a merciful creditor, not keeping the items given as security by poor debtors. He does not rob the poor but instead gives food to the hungry and provides clothes for the needy.

Catholic social teaching offers important values and principles for assessing policies and programs related to agriculture. The following brief summaries of key themes of Catholic social teaching are not comprehensive. They offer an overview of principles that have shaped our current reflections on agricultural policies.

I. Protecting Human Life and Dignity—The Right to Food

II. Social Nature of the Person—The Call to Family, Community, and Participation

III. Option for and with the Poor and Vulnerable

IV. Dignity of Work and the Rights and Duties of Workers and Owners

V. Solidarity

VI. Respect for Creation

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/agriculture-nutrition-rural-issues/for-i-was-hungry-cst-and-agriculture.cfm>

ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

Donate to the Rice Bowl program this month as a portion of the donated funds goes to support programs in our archdiocese. Please, return your rice bowls that were distributed earlier in Lent, or make a donation to the Rice Bowl program in a separate envelope.

MORE INFORMATION:

<http://feedingindianashungry.org/blog/hunger-data/>

April 23, 2017

ISSUE: Hunger in Indianapolis

For the Indianapolis-Carmel MSA, the food hardship rate for households with children was 22.4 percent for households with children (54th in the nation), and 17.1 percent for households without children (20th in the nation).

(Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index project)

TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture, or is the position of the archdiocese or USCCB:

Luke 3:11 He answered them, "Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who doesn't have any. Whoever has food should share it too."

As Catholic bishops, pastors, and teachers, we seek to address agriculture through the lens of our faith because so much is at stake in moral and human terms. Food sustains life itself; it is not just another product. Providing food for all is a Gospel imperative, not just another policy choice.

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/agriculture-nutrition-rural-issues/for-i-was-hungry-pastoral-reflection-part-1.cfm>

ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

Donate or volunteer at the Cathedral Kitchen or St Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry 3001 East 30th. Tue. Thur. Fri. or Sat. from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, or Thur. evenings.

MORE INFORMATION:

feedingindianahungry.org/

April 30, 2017

ISSUE: Hunger

Food insecurity refers to USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods.

Food insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.

Proper nutrition, particularly in the first three years of life, is critical to a child's physical and emotional development. Unfortunately, food insecurity is an obstacle that threatens that critical foundation.

Children from families struggling with hunger may be more likely to repeat a grade in elementary school, experience developmental impairments in areas like language and motor skills, and/or have more social and behavioral problems.

TEACHING: What the Church teaches, is in scripture, or is the position of the archdiocese or USCCB:

Matthew 10:42 I tell all of you with certainty, whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple will never lose his reward.

In the short term, CRS and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) are urging the U.S. to provide:

- **Additional emergency food aid to help hungry people around the world now.**
- **More funding for the U.S. international food aid program.**
- **Funding to support small-scale farmer production** in the developing world countries.
- **More funding for essential items** such as soap, blankets, household items, clothing and shelter,

In the long-term, CRS and USCCB urge the U.S. to:

- **Increase development assistance for food security** with developing countries.
- **Change U.S. agricultural policies** toward farmers who need the most support.
- **Respond to climate change and its impact on the poor.**

ACTION: What we can do to promote equality, rights, health, safety and dignity of others:

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MORE INFORMATION:

<http://map.feedingamerica.org/>