

BACKGROUND

From the beginning we have been called as followers of Jesus to care for the poor and oppressed. Key themes of Catholic Social Teaching remind us that we are to live in faith-filled solidarity with the poor. Jesus told his disciples 2000 years ago – and he reminds us today - that God has a special love for the poor and vulnerable – and we are to be models of that same compassionate love.

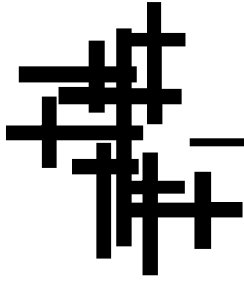
Focused on the election process, Catholic Charities USA invites us to join with people of faith across the country to fight poverty. As candidates for local, state and national offices ask for votes from people of faith, we must ask them to tell us what they will do to serve the powerless. With 37 million Americans trapped in poverty, we need more than slogans – we need action.

ACTION

From now through September 16th 2008, hundreds of faith leaders across the country are speaking out about the problem of poverty and lack of opportunity in our country today, drawing attention to the moral outrage of deep and persistent poverty in our land of abundance and opportunity. We need you to join them!

Many candidates have outlined their general position on economic issues. Few have made commitments to specifically address poverty and equal opportunity. We now need to hear all of their detailed solutions and direct answers. This week, as people of faith, we are asking for answers. Our shared Gospel call is to present a vision of shared responsibility that commands that we care – especially for the least.

Some sample talking points are on the next page.



GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH VOICES FOR JUSTICE
ACTION ALERT – SEPTEMBER 2008
Fighting Poverty with Faith

When you contact a candidate, tell them:

- Poverty in America is a pressing and moral problem. All faiths speak out on the need to care for the poor and vulnerable and to strive for the common good.
- Our current economy is not working for everyone. This is evidenced by rising unemployment, the subprime mortgage and credit crisis, widening inequality, and skyrocketing food, energy and healthcare prices. History shows that when we ignore our society's vulnerable populations and do not strive towards the common good, it affects all of us
- However, We CAN solve poverty with political leadership powered by a citizen movement. Government can and must play a constructive and leading role.
- Poverty is not a Republican or Democratic issue; it is a moral issue, and if we build the political and public will across different sectors of society, we can solve this blight on our nation.
- During this week of action, we are holding ourselves accountable to do more to address poverty in America. What will YOU DO in your first 100 days in office to address this pressing and moral issue?!



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