

The Social Justice Team Invites IHM's to Renew Focus and Initiatives

The IHM Social Justice Team extends an overwhelming thank you to all of our sisters for their enthusiastic and responsible embrace of our Water Project during the summer and continuing into this year. We pray that our combined efforts will make a difference to our brothers and sisters who suffer dreadfully from a lack of water.

We wish to continue our IHM focus for this year on the issues of immigration and the environment, especially in our use of water. In addition to this focus, we are seeking to reduce hunger and poverty through a two-pronged commitment of advocacy with Bread for the World and Catholics Confront Global Poverty.

Also, in conjunction with the Contemplative Stance committee, we will be inviting each of you, over the course of this year, to help discern the social justice issues for our focus in 2010-2011. Details on this process will be forthcoming.

Two-pronged commitment of IHM's to combat hunger and poverty includes Bread for the World and Catholics Confront Global Poverty.

1) Bread for the World Covenant

As a result of research, study, and prayer, our Central Administration resolved to expand our IHM commitment to relieve hunger at home and abroad. For decades, our congregation has been feeding the hungry and caring for the needy through the operation of food cupboards and many other avenues of generous assistance.

Now, we are continuing these efforts by pursuing advocacy to confront hunger and poverty both globally and domestically through two initiatives.

On October 15th, 2009, our IHM Administration signed a covenant, on our behalf, with Bread for the World. This Covenant extends the work that some of our sisters have already done in Bread's annual Offering of Letters in parishes and places of ministry, as well as at Camilla and Immaculata University. The Covenant engages the entire congregation in our determination to relieve the suffering of the poor.

The Covenant asks each of us to be involved in the following ways:

- ✓ ***In our Worship and Study***
 - Prayer for the ministry of Bread for the World
 - Learn about the causes/solutions for hunger issues*
 - Seek to influence public policy by participation in Bread's Offering of Letters Campaign
- ✓ ***In our Working and Giving***
 - Help the poor in our local area by giving time, resources
 - Support hunger relief initiatives
 - Participate in Bread's activities, give annual financial support
- ✓ ***In our Living***
 - Give prominence to the needs of hungry people
 - Reflect an awareness of our role as stewards of God's gifts

In this Angelus, we are enclosing a prayer for grace before meals in response to our Bread for the World Covenant. This can be used as an option for grace before meals when the local community chooses to do so.

2) Catholics Confront Global Poverty

The second initiative, “A Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty” is sponsored by Catholic Relief Services and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. The CRS and the USCCB invite Catholics throughout the U.S. to join in the Campaign as we advocate for U.S. policies that foster economic and social development for people living in poverty throughout the world.

Three areas of focus on U.S. economic policy include:

Trade: Shaping U.S. trade policies so that overcoming poverty and promoting human development are high priorities;

Aid: Supporting effective programs that foster long-term development and empowerment of the poor;

Debt: Eliminate the debt of the poorest countries in ways that reduce poverty and promote human dignity.

Each Social Justice local contact will be sharing the INFO Alerts for clarification on these initiatives and to encourage our IHM growth in education, prayer, and action for social justice.

The first *INFO Alert* with additional input of the Bread for the World Covenant will be sent to you on November 10th. Future *INFO Alerts* will continue on every other Tuesday.

*Doing, as well as learning and praying, calls us again and again,
to embrace the Gospel mandate “to do justice.”*