

**Info Alert 225**

**March 11, 2025**

*It is not enough to **give** to the poor, Jesus says—God calls us to **become** poor in our perspectives and our lifestyles for the common good. Deacon Jay Cormier*

**Poverty**

It is a fact that many people are struggling right now. Prices are high and income is not commensurate with the cost of living. The Federal Government has created safety net programs to help low-income families cover the cost of basic necessities. They include food assistance programs such as SNAP, rental assistance for people who pay more than 50% of their income on rent, healthcare assistance through the Affordable Care Act, social security benefits to disabled children (SSI), and temporary financial assistance for needy families (TANF). All these programs are at risk as our administration seeks to rein in spending. The truth is spending cuts to any of the programs which are lifelines to families which exist at the lower end of the pay scale, would push many of them over the edge. To read the complete report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities click the link: <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/2025-budget-stakes-poverty-and-hardship-could-rise-for-millions> Look for ways to support these at-risk programs in your state.

**Project HOME**

Poverty takes many shapes and forms, but none is as stark as the poverty of homelessness exacerbated by drug addiction. Project HOME has established a base in Kensington. Health and social services teams are there to give assistance to people living on the streets and to help in whatever way they can to end addiction in this area of Philadelphia. Listen to their story in this YouTube video, entitled: "Providing Recovery Care: Project HOME in Kensington." Project HOME workers live their motto: "None of us are home until all of us are home." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8YF3Lezyu8>

**Immigration**

This is a concise articulation of what the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops teaches about Immigration Reform in our country. Use this information to educate yourself and others.

[Catholic Elements of Immigration Reform](#): For decades, the Catholic bishops of the United States have been consistent and steadfast in their calls for a just reform of the nation's immigration system. The elements of reform articulated below are grounded in [Catholic social teaching generally](#) and the [Church's teaching on migration specifically](#), including the joint pastoral letter released by the American and Mexican bishops, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope* (2003).

FYI: There are resources and our Congregational Response on Immigration on our IHM Website, Sisters' Section, IHM Congregation ICE, and Immigration Resources.

<https://ihmimmaculata.org/wp-content/uploads/Congregation-Response-to-Immigration-8x11-1.pdf>

**Haiti Update**

Thank you for your donations to the Little Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus (psst), during Haiti Awareness Week. Their needs are many and their gratitude is endless.

**Gun Safety Awareness**

This may be of interest to you. Find your state and use it as an incentive to continue to work for gun safety legislation.

<https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/>

### **A Letter from the Staff of Catholic Climate Covenant**

We know much of our efforts to address climate change are being rolled back in this Administration. Please read the letter from our Laudato Si sisters and brothers in the United States.

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/press-releases/a-letter-from-the-staff-of-catholic-climate-covenant/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=b5ae9f67-a2b0-43f8-946e-2ed24912418f>

### **Prayer for Those in Poverty (excerpt) by Jane Deren Education for Justice**

O Christ, you responded to those in poverty:

You acknowledged them and their need.

Open our eyes so we can see and respond

To your children who struggle each day to survive,

To secure food, and shelter, and to find hope.

<https://educationforjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2015-09-22-Prayer-for-Those-in-Poverty.pdf>

### **Actions**

1. Educate yourself.
2. Participate in CRS Operation Rice Bowl
3. Advocate when you can!