

Info Alert 237

January 13, 2026

“Love for our neighbor is tangible proof of the authenticity of our love for God.”

Pope Leo XIV, Dilexi Te (no. 26).

Poverty Awareness Month

January is designated Poverty Awareness Month by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. People are struggling on every level in our country today. Our faith calls us to share what we have with those in need. Sharing God’s love includes offering spiritual care, providing help to meet immediate needs, and working together to eliminate the causes of poverty.

Feeding America has published a fact sheet that presents the stark realities that place millions of Americans in poverty. See it here: <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/poverty>

Haiti Update

Due to malnutrition, Haitian children under the age of five are at risk for diminished intellectual and physical development. One in three pre-school children in Haiti suffers from stunted growth, and virtually all children under the age of two are anemic. Through its “Skip a Lunch, Save a Child” fund, founded by Marlene Shaw from Republic, PA, the Rich in Mercy Institute supports primary nutrition and early education for pre-school students at high risk for malnutrition in the St. Louis de Montfort parish in the Delmas section of Port au Prince. Donations help make possible a daily, nutritious meal, structured play, and various formative educational activities for nearly 100 preschoolers.

Source: Rich in Mercy Institute www.RIMIN.org

Bishops’ Action Center

The U.S. Bishops have created an Action Center on which we can register and receive notifications concerning actions about issues that are important to all of us.

Learn more at: www.usccb.org/take-action Register for alerts here:
www.voterve.net/USCCB/register

National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Since 2010, U.S. presidents have tried to shine a light on the crime and personal devastation that is contained within the world of human trafficking. With so much attention focused on Philadelphia in 2026 due to the celebration of the 250th year since the birth of our nation, the FIFA World Cup Games, and baseball’s All Stars Game, the city and organizations like the Alliance Against Human Trafficking are partnering to create an environment that is both safe and welcoming to visitors but unwelcoming to those who would cause harm. Polaris is one organization that has existed for the past 20 years and is dedicated to stopping human trafficking in our country. Discover what Polaris has uncovered using this link: <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/>

Prayer for Those in Poverty (excerpt) by Jane Deren of 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, shelter, and to find hope. . .

Grant us the wisdom to see new ways of ordering society
And building more human and humane communities
Where no one is invisible, no one lost, no child crying in hunger,
Where we all participate in the healing mission of compassion,
Where we all share in the grace of justice.

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

Prayer

Scranton IHM Contemplative Prayer

Thursday, Jan 22, 2026 at 6:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting with link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82207518465?pwd=aos6BnCf5gVtE2UZbNiMXFj5QTJ0DP.1>

Flyer: <https://files.constantcontact.com/a47da6c4701/2624f2c8-cf8f-4617-878b-941fbdad3518.pdf?rdr=true>

Action

1. Join our Scranton IHMs on January 22nd for Contemplative Prayer.
2. Support programs and legislation that address poverty in our country and world.