



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

JANUARY POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH JANUARY

3 **Poverty** is not a catchphrase—it is a serious reality that many are living. Our faith invites us to respond to the needs of those who are most vulnerable. How can you better respond to the poor in your community?

4 Today is the feast of **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**, the first canonized U.S. citizen and founder of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, which serves and educates children living in poverty. Her work laid the foundation for the **American Catholic School system**. Both her order and Catholic schools continue to further the social mission of the Church to this day.

5 A fair portion the Catholic Campaign for Human Development's (CCHD) work has focused on addressing food inequality and homelessness within the **Los Angeles** area. Read how CCHD is addressing not only homelessness and food accessibility, but the myriad of other issues that arise when a large percentage of a community is affected by poverty.

6 How does the Gospel require us to respond to poverty in our communities? What can you do to proclaim the good news of God's love today? Read about how **parishes** in Baltimore are publicly proclaiming Christ's message of peace and justice.

7 Pope Francis recently signed his latest encyclical, titled Fratelli Tutti, which focuses on spiritual unity through social friendship and the importance of caring for our neighbors. Read how CCHD is putting **Pope Francis' words into action** by helping those who are marginalized by supporting their work for food equality, environmental justice, adequate housing, immigrant accompaniment, and more.

1 An annual papal message for the World Day of Peace (Jan. 1) has been released every year since 1968. Read the **2021 message** and use these prayers to reflect on its important invitation to all Catholics and people of good will. Take today to also make a resolution for the year that helps work to reduce poverty.

2 For over 50 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has been working to empower new mothers, immigrants, the elderly, and families to together address the root causes of poverty in their communities. **Read about the work of CCHD** and how you can join the celebration of **50 years of transformative work**.

8 Every year, CCHD recognizes a young adult who demonstrates leadership in fighting poverty and injustice in the United States through community based solutions. This year **Louis Damani Jones** of the Diocese of Belleville is the recipient of the **2020 Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award**.

9 We are called to listen to the needs of victims and uphold the dignity of offenders through practicing **restorative justice** and opposing the **death penalty**. How can you show God's love and mercy to those in need of healing and hope?

10 Through **Baptism**, we share in Christ's prophetic mission as people of God "to bring glad tidings to the poor...proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free" (**Lk 4:18**). How can you live out your baptismal call to **advocate** for and with persons in poverty locally and globally?

11 Today is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Throughout the world today many children, women and men are being trafficked. There are many **children, women, and men being trafficked** in the world today. Learn more about the Catholic teachings and social service programs developed to protect and serve human trafficking survivors.

12 The church teaches that every person has a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and wellbeing of all, especially the **poor and vulnerable**. What are you doing in your family and community to encourage others to participate, especially in the work to address the systems and structures that keep people in poverty?

13 Many face barriers to breaking the cycle of poverty due to discrimination and racism. Read how **CCHD is addressing housing discrimination in Washington, DC** by partnering with organizations who have long been fighting to reform and expand access to affordable housing.

14 When someone experiences poverty, their basic rights to clean water, food, housing, employment, and vital healthcare are violated. With rights come the duty to protect them. Learn more about our **Rights and Responsibilities**.

15 Despite the myriad of vibrant communities seen throughout Chicago, the work to create a just society where all can thrive continues. **Read** the many local organizations that CCHD has supported in their mission to help new immigrants to get on their feet, as well as empower those most impacted to improve economic and environmental conditions in Chicago.

16 "Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor" (**Evangelii Gaudium no. 187**). **Pray** for the grace to understand how God is calling you to be an instrument for the common good.

17 Tomorrow begins the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, celebrated each year on January 18-25. The theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, **"Abide in my love...you shall bear much fruit,"** is from John 15.

18 As we reflect on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we are reminded of his tireless fight to eliminate justice and segregation. For 50 years, **CCHD has worked for racial justice** in all aspects of society like criminal justice reform, affordable housing, environmental justice, and more.

19 **Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton** was the first African American priest in the U.S. and dedicated himself to his parishioners, many of whom were living in poverty. Learn more about **Fr. Tolton and other inspiring holy men and women** who worked courageously to address racism in their communities.

20 Today, reflect on the role of our civil leaders and their obligations to implement just policies for the **common good**. A basic moral test for society is how our **most vulnerable members** are faring. Learn about how you can promote the common good by visiting **USCCB's Action Center**. Say a **prayer to confront global poverty**.

21 Throughout our lives, God accompanies us. In a very special way, **God is close to those who suffer** and are marginalized. Watch this **video** and reflect: What priority do those who experience poverty have in my heart?

22 Many Americans continue to be severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. During this trying time we ask that you reflect on this **prayer** in solidarity of those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

23 "But racism still profoundly affects our culture, and it has no place in the Christian heart. This evil causes great harm to its victims, and it corrupts the souls of those who harbor racist or prejudicial thoughts." (**Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love - A Pastoral Letter Against Racism**)

24 In the United States, tens of millions of people live in a web of poverty. Use **this video** as a resource to discuss how poverty connects to everything that we do, the factors that keep so many people and families entrapped, and what solutions are needed to overcome poverty.

25 Read about **Living Hope: A Voice for the Vulnerable**. CCHD provides funds to help Living Hope empower members of the disability community. They work to not only provide wheelchairs, safety, and community to people experiencing poverty and disability, but they also work to give them a voice and place in society.

26 Our faith calls us to care for God's creation and help poor countries and communities adapt to the effects of climate change. Read how CCHD supports community organizations throughout the country, working to tackle many dimensions of the complex **social and environmental crisis** facing our world.

27 Working to address poverty in America demands confronting the root causes of economic injustice — and promoting policies that help. **Find your Representative** and ask them to support **policies and legislation that help people in poverty**.

28 "The Christian community is called to be involved in this kind of sharing and to recognize that it cannot be delegated to others. In order to help the poor, we ourselves need to live the experience of evangelical poverty." (**Pope Francis**) Say a prayer that the Holy Spirit will lead you to be of service to the poor.

29 Poverty **disproportionately impacts the elderly**. Read about how CCHD funded organizations such as the **Massachusetts Senior Action Council** have organized around issues such as healthcare, transportation, and voter engagement that are often challenging for elderly to access, trapping them in a cycle of poverty.

30 Work is much more than simply earning a living; it is a way of using our gifts to participate in God's creation. We are called to uphold the **dignity and rights of workers** including just wages, humane conditions, respectful treatment, etc. Learn how **CCHD supports Don Bosco Workers** in their mission to ensure the immigrant population in Port Chester, New York understand the laws and their rights.

31 CCHD is celebrating its 50th anniversary - that's 50 years supporting initiatives that empower families, immigrants, new mothers, the elderly, and those in need. Learn more about our 50 years of service and continue the conversation of poverty by **visiting our website**.

