



Providing help. Creating hope. Transforming lives.

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*Justice will not come until those
who are not injured are as
indignant as those who are injured.*
Thucydides, Greek historian

*Injustice anywhere is a threat to
justice everywhere.*
Martin Luther King

In faithfulness to the Gospel and Mission of Jesus, Catholic Charities North Dakota serves people in need with compassion, dignity and respect, empowers them toward self-sufficiency, and works with others in advocating for justice.

Catholic Charities North Dakota programs:

Pregnancy Services—assisting pregnant women making decisions that are in the best interest of their children and themselves

Adoption Services—finding families for children who need them

Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK)—facilitating the adoption of children in foster care in North Dakota by recruiting and training families, and providing pre- and post adoption support services

Search and Disclosure Services—supporting the process of connecting adult adoptees with genetic family members

Guardianship Services—serving as court-appointed guardians for adults with developmental disabilities

Counseling Service—providing a safe, holistic environment for clients to discover their own strengths and to identify resources to meet their challenges, as individuals, couples or families



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Faith Works WONDERS



Racism

As the new millennium approaches, there remains another great challenge facing this community. . .[and] the whole country: to put an end to every form of racism, a plague which [is] one of the most persistent and destructive evils of the nation.

These were the words of Pope John Paul II when he spoke in St. Louis, Missouri in January 1999.

To find out more about our programs, or to learn how you can help, please call us at our nearest office or visit www.catholiccharitiesnd.org.

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Visit us at www.catholiccharitiesnd.org

Atención: Si usted no entiende Inglés, por favor déjenoslo saber, un intérprete será proveído.

In January 2008, Catholic Charities USA broached the topic of racism when it published the issue brief **Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good**. It is part of Catholic Charities USA's campaign to reduce the number of Americans living in poverty by half by 2020 by responsibly addressing issues which impact poverty.

Catholic Charities USA and its member agencies observe poverty and racism everyday. A disproportionate number of people of color are among the poor that we serve. According to most recent census statistics, 36.5 million people - about 1 in 8 Americans, including 1 in 6 children - live below the official federal poverty level, which was \$20,000 for a family of four in 2006.

Laura Sikes/Catholic Charities USA



What is Racism? Racism describes the reality of unearned advantage, conferred dominance, and invisible privilege enjoyed by white Americans, to the detriment, burden, and disadvantage of people of color. This network of racially conferred advantages and benefits has been termed "white privilege."

Historically, key events in history have added to the

imbalance of these benefits and advantages. One example which had influence in our region was the Indian Removal Act of 1830 which allowed for the forcible removal of Native Americans from their lands and their resettlement into territory that was of no interest to whites. Native Americans tell stories of themselves as children who were forced into boarding schools where their culture and language were stripped away.

And the valued land was the basis for white economic enrichment which could be passed on as inheritance to future white generations, whereas the Native Americans were put onto "reservations" where today poverty rates are high.

Nationally, the rate for Native Americans is 23.2 percent. In the Lake Region of North Dakota (Ramsey, Cavalier, Rolette, Towner, Benson, and Eddy counties), one in every four residents lives in poverty, twice the poverty rate of the rest of the state's regions. In 2000, 45% of all Native American people of the state lived in this region.

In the most recent data from KIDS COUNT 2006, 13% of children in North Dakota live in poverty; of that number 44% are Native American.

Resources and opportunities to learn about the issue of racism.

Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good can be downloaded from www.catholiccharitiesusa.org. Go to the "Poverty in America" tab at the top of the page.

View a movie and talk it over with family, friends or parish social justice group.

To Kill a Mockingbird

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

PBS documentary: A Class Divided, telling of the racism experiment of teacher Jane Elliot. Available from www.pbs.com or local libraries

Host a discussion at your parish. Contact Catholic Charities North Dakota (1-800-450-4457) for a presentation, including a short video with a keynote address by Rev. Bryan N. Massingale speaking on **racism**.

In this election year we will be choosing leaders to address important challenges of our country. Be aware of what candidates have to say on these key issues which impact the rate of poverty, including racism. Do they support policies and fund programs which will reduce poverty?

Hunger

Every person should have adequate food and water to nourish their bodies. This is essential to the dignity of the human person. It is unacceptable in a nation as bountiful as ours that children, adults, and senior citizens experience food insecurity that puts their physical, mental, and developmental health at risk.



Health Care

Every person should have access to equitable and affordable health care. This is essential to safeguard human life, and is a basic human right. Special attention must be given to meeting the basic health needs of the poor and marginalized. Health care reform that addresses such needs is a matter of fundamental justice.

Family Economic Security



Laura Sikes/Catholic Charities USA

Every person should have the opportunity to adequately provide for themselves and their families. The family is the indispensable and essential unit of our society. Policies must promote and strengthen the economic security of families, including assisting fathers in remaining connected to their families.

Housing

Every person should have a safe, decent, affordable place to live. The home is the very foundation for raising children, seeking comfort, and preparing oneself to participate in broader society through work, education, and civic engagement.

Material for this insert came from *Poverty and Racism* and websites of North Dakota state government and Catholic Charities USA.

"Racism is not just one sin among many; it is a radical evil which divides the human family." Brothers and Sisters to Us, USCCB