



## JANUARY 2015: POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p><b>1</b> Today, on the World Day of Peace, Pope Francis calls us to reflect on the theme, "Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters." 20.9 million of our brothers and sisters are victims of human trafficking.</p>	<p><b>2</b> 45 million people live in poverty in the United States. Make two commitments this month to help address poverty in your community.</p>	<p><b>3</b> The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) lives out the Gospel call to bring good news to the poor and oppressed (Luke 4:18) by working for long term solutions to address the root causes of poverty.</p>
<p><b>4</b> Today begins National Migration Week. This week, pray for our brothers and sisters forced to leave their homes and reflect on the theme, "We are one family under God."</p>	<p><b>5</b> In the Body of Christ, "if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it. If one part is honored all of the parts share its joy" (1 Cor 12:26). Who suffers in your community?</p>	<p><b>6</b> In the spirit of the three wise men, how do you offer your gifts to help bring forth for God's kingdom on earth?</p>	<p><b>7</b> "All discrimination as regards wages and working conditions must be carefully avoided" (Second Vatican Council, <i>Gaudium et Spes</i>). Is the dignity of workers respected in your community?</p>	<p><b>8</b> Bethany Welch was awarded the Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award for her leadership in fighting poverty and injustice in her community. Who is working to change unjust structures in your community?</p>	<p><b>9</b> Today is the 2015 World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Pope Francis asks us to reflect on the theme "Church without frontiers, Mother to all." What does it mean for the church to be "without frontiers"?</p>	<p><b>10</b> "All of us are asked to obey [Jesus'] call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel" (Pope Francis, <i>Evangelii Gaudium</i>). How will you "go forth" today?</p>
<p><b>11</b> Disciples "share the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Christ, and . . . carry on the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world" (Second Vatican Council, <i>Lumen Gentium</i>).</p>	<p><b>12</b> Jesus loves the poor so much that he tells his disciples "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matt 25:40).</p>	<p><b>13</b> "Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person. Work, to use an image, 'anoints' us with dignity, fills us with dignity, makes us similar to God, who has worked and still works, who always acts." (Pope Francis, 2013).</p>	<p><b>14</b> 12.4% of families in the United States live in poverty. Almost 20% of children in the United States live in poverty. How do you and your family address the root causes of poverty?</p>	<p><b>15</b> "Do Justice, Love Goodness, Walk Humbly with God" (Micah 6:8) is the theme of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) Multimedia Youth Contest. Invite youth you know to participate!</p>	<p><b>16</b> We all have rights and responsibilities. What kind of responsibilities do you have to uphold the rights of others, particularly those who are vulnerable in your community?</p>	<p><b>17</b> Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI beckons us to care for creation by reminding us that harming the environment can make an area so unlivable that people must leave their homes and become "environmental refugees."</p>
<p><b>18</b> We must respect life "in every phase of development, from conception until natural death; and in every condition, whether healthy or sick, whole or handicapped, rich or poor" (St. John Paul II, <i>Chritsifedeles Laici</i>).</p>	<p><b>19</b> "True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring" (Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr).</p>	<p><b>20</b> 27.2% of the black population and 23.5% of the hispanic population live in poverty. As the diverse but united Body of Christ, let us fight for justice for all of our brothers and sisters.</p>	<p><b>21</b> Offer a prayer, fast, or sacrifice today as an act of solidarity with those who are young and old, those who live in poverty, and for all those whose dignity is endangered.</p>	<p><b>22</b> Through restorative justice, we are called to a Christ-like redeeming love which works to uphold the dignity of offenders and victims of crime and to end the cycle of poverty, crime, and violence in our communities.</p>	<p><b>23</b> "When a family has nothing to eat, because it has to make payments to usurers, this is not Christian, it is not human! This dramatic scourge in our society harms the inviolable dignity of the human person" (Pope Francis).</p>	<p><b>24</b> How do you foster social justice and concern for people in poverty in your family? What can you do as a family to pray and act for justice for all people?</p>
<p><b>25</b> Isaiah 58 describes how true worship of God includes working for justice and caring for the poor and the oppressed. How can we connect our Sunday worship to our weekday witness?</p>	<p><b>26</b> "No one can claim the name of Christian and be comfortable in the face of hunger, homelessness, insecurity, and injustice found in this country and the world" (U.S. Bishops, <i>Economic Justice for All</i>).</p>	<p><b>27</b> Our policy goals should, "encourage families, communities, economic structures, and government to work together to overcome poverty" (U.S. Bishops, <i>Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship</i>).</p>	<p><b>28</b> There are many myths that can deceive us about the identity of those living in poverty. Did you know that 2.8 million people in the U.S. work full-time, year-round and are still living in poverty?</p>	<p><b>29</b> Project HOPE Spokane, a CCHD funded group, is building green pathways out of poverty through programs that provide social outlets, job training, skill building and entrepreneurial opportunities.</p>	<p><b>30</b> Social media is an incredible tool to motivate others to take action to end the injustices in our communities. Post or Tweet today about a social justice issue in your community.</p>	<p><b>31</b> Thanks for participating in Poverty Awareness Month. Keep living out our Christian commitment to live in solidarity and fight for justice. Let us build relationships with one another and live out the Gospel call.</p>



For more info and tips on getting involved, visit [PovertyUSA.org](http://PovertyUSA.org) or [PobrezaUSA.org](http://PobrezaUSA.org)