



A project to raise awareness and encourage participation in global health & poverty issues



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Several educational and discussion programs provided in this text were adapted from **Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility** [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org) (United States Catholic Conference, Inc., Washington, D.C.)

Scriptural references and Catholic teaching summation used in this text are taken from **A Call to Justice: An Activity Book for Raising Awareness of Social Justice Issues** (United States Catholic Conference, Inc., Washington, D.C.)

# INTRODUCTION

The One Million Patients Project was established by Mission Doctors Association to raise awareness about global health and poverty issues to encourage youth and adults of all ages to get involved and make a difference.

The One Million Patients Project is providing these materials to schools and churches with the hope of educating students and parishioners about Catholic social teaching and their role in global health and poverty matters. In conjunction with this educational material we hope to provide the individuals the opportunity to live their faith by participating in the One Million Patients Project.

The goal of the One Million Patients Project is to raise enough funds to make it possible for Mission Doctors to treat one million patients in rural Africa and Latin America. Our goal is to raise three million dollars by 2020.

The direct cost to make it possible for one doctor to serve long term, including the formation, airfare, insurance, and the small stipend (\$150 a month) averages \$20,000 a year. Looking at the number of patients served on average, we can say with confidence that \$3 makes it possible for a doctor to be at the bedside of a child in Cameroon, to deliver twins in Guatemala, or to attend an emergency patient in Uganda.

The Faith into Action section in this guide contains simple activities that Catholics of all ages can do to help us reach our goal and provide hope and life saving medical service for many in need.

Please visit [www.MissionDoctors.org](http://www.MissionDoctors.org) for additional information.

**MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION (MDA)** is a national Catholic nonprofit organization, founded in 1959, to meet the medical needs of men, women and children of all faiths around the world. These needs often go unmet due to a lack of trained professionals. As a result many individuals suffer from diseases, lower quality of life, and shortened life spans. Mission Doctors Association recruits, trains, sends, and supports Catholic doctors and their families to serve long-term (three-years) or short-term (one to three months) at the invitation of the local Catholic Bishops.

Visit [www.MissionDoctors.org](http://www.MissionDoctors.org) to learn more about MDA's mission and work around the world.

# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to inform individuals about the Church's social teachings on current global health and poverty issues and engage them in activities to live these principals. It is intended for high school students, college students, youth and young adult ministers, and religious educators to use with students and other members of the community.

The first half of the guide provides presentations and discussion ideas about Catholic social teaching.

The second half of this guide consists of tangible activities, as part of the One Million Patients Project, that students and Catholics of all ages can practice as they strive to live Catholic social teachings.

This guide is created to address five major principles of the Church's social teaching: dignity of the human person, solidarity, option for the poor, community and the common good, and rights and responsibilities. Please visit [www.MissionDoctors.org](http://www.MissionDoctors.org) for additional activities.

If you have any questions about this guide, the One Million Patients Project or Mission Doctors Association, please feel free to contact our office.

One Million Patients Project  
Mission Doctors Association  
[info@missiondoctors.org](mailto:info@missiondoctors.org)  
Phone: (213) 368-1872

## Prayer for the Missions

Divine Physician; in your earthly life you showed special concern for those who suffer. Make us aware of the great mission to strive always to be an instrument of your love.

Help us recognize you in all we meet, make us O Lord, Good Samaritans, ready to welcome those we encounter in our daily lives.

Strengthen us and all missionaries in body and soul, bless the work of their hands, deepen their faith and reliance upon you, that they may heal the sick, give comfort to all, and live a life that proclaims your great love and the value of all life.

This prayer we make to you who are living God now and forever.

Amen

# EDUCATIONAL & DISCUSSION PROGRAMS

These educational and discussion activities introduce participants to Catholic Social Teaching. Often called the “best kept secret of the Catholic Church,” Catholic Social Teaching is a set of guidelines developed by the Catholic Church on matters of poverty and wealth, economics, social organization, and the role of the state.

## FACES OF THE ISSUE COLLAGE

Break the participants into five groups and distribute social teaching cards (appendix 1). Using magazines and periodicals, cut out pictures and words to make a collage illustrating one of the Church’s social teachings. People, objects, words, and scenery can all be used, but the faces of people should have a prominent place in the collage. “Issue collages” can be displayed together in a public area of your church or school, along with a quote from Scripture.

## RELATING TO REAL PEOPLE ACTIVITY

Working with partners, have students look through newspapers and periodicals or search on the Web to find stories of real people around the world impacted by the issues addressed in these five social teaching themes (appendix 1). Then, have students present the person and story they chose within their small group, answering key questions:

1. Introduce the person or family you chose to focus on. Who are they? Where are they from? What is their situation?
2. How were/are they impacted by the issue of focus?
3. What changes in public policy could help in this person’s situation?
4. How does your faith call you to respond to (and with) this person and their situation?

## WRITE A PRAYER

Break the participants into five groups and distribute social teaching cards (appendix 1). Have participants write a prayer about an issue pertaining to one of the social teachings. You can ask volunteers to share their prayers as part of a group prayer time. The prayers can be featured on a bulletin board in a public area of the church or parish center.

## PRAYER SERVICE

Divide youth into five small groups, and assign each group one of the Catholic social teaching themes (appendix 1). Each small group will be responsible for developing part of a prayer service. You may want to provide a standard format so that each section looks similar.

## REFLECTION ON GRATITUDE

Copy and hand out the Global Resources and Rights quiz (appendix 2) and have the participants fill out the quiz. Using the Global Resources and Rights Answer sheet review the correct answers with the group using the additional statistics. Hand out copies of the reflections on gratitude for participants to discuss and keep (appendix 3).

# FAITH INTO ACTION: ONE MILLION PATIENTS PROJECT

Catholics of all ages can live the values of our Catholic Social Teaching as part of the One Million Patients Project. You can help us reach our goal of one million patients and provide lifesaving medical service for many in need. These are just a couple of fundraising ideas; more can be found on our website! We are also happy to provide a poster, video, brochures, and additional materials for your fundraiser.

## CAR WASH

With enough volunteers a fundraising car wash can be easy and fun. Determine the best time and location for your carwash (often the warmer summer months provide the right weather). Set up your car wash and ask for a donation to the One Million Patients Project in return. Consider asking for donations in increments of \$3, representing the number of patients served. Don't forget to advertise your upcoming carwash in community calendars and bulletin boards. Set up your car wash with information about the One Million Patient Project to education your attendees.

## GUESSING JARS

Guessing jars are entertaining fundraisers for school campuses or churches. This fundraiser only takes about half an hour to set up, with minimal materials. Each jar will have a prize for the winner and runner up, those whose guesses are closest to the actual amount in the jar. Encourage participants to guess several times, each time donating and filling out a slip of paper with their guess, their name and contact information. Set up the jars with information about the One Million Patient Project and advertise in church bulletins and school papers.

## ONE MILLION HANDS

Have students use their hands as a stencil and cut out cardboard hands. Have students decorate them and make a personal message about why they want to help. Put the hands on a large sheet of butcher paper making a banner that says "One Million Hands for Millions in Need". Get a stencil and cut out as many hands as possible, and have your class sign up for shifts to sell the hands to other students, parents and faculty. Place the banner up where people can see the progress of more hands being added and all the messages being written. When you have finished a school campaign, take a picture and send it to the One Million Patients Project office; we will add it to our website.



## PENNY DRIVE

Common in schools and churches around the country, penny drives allow everyone in the community to become involved and feel the excitement as containers fill with coins. The only cost of these fundraisers is the jug for pennies. This is a great fundraiser for schools; classrooms can compete against each other filling up their containers. Create flyers advertising the penny drive and signs for these containers explaining the One Million Patient Project and encourage participants to collect pennies from family and friends.

## RECYCLING DRIVE

A great green fundraiser, a recycling drive requires no upfront materials and keeps recyclable material out of landfills. A few volunteers will be required to collect the bags of recycled items and turn them in for reimbursement. Consider creating flyers about the recycling drive with information about the Million Patient Project and don't forget to advertise your upcoming recycling drive in community calendars and bulletin boards.

## SOCCKER CHALLENGE

Organize a soccer event for the school. The principal or a teacher plays goalie. For each \$3 raised, students get a chance to shoot a soccer ball at the net. It can be done outdoors or in the gym and can be done multiple times.

## WALK-FOR-A-MILLION

This is another great community event, bringing people of all ages and physical abilities together to raise funds for the One Million Patient Project. A walk-a-thon can take place on a walking or bike path or through a set route around your community. Ask participants to solicit pledges from family and friends, in increments of \$3, connecting people to the cost of sending a doctor to care for a patient in Africa and Latin America. The pledges can be per mile, lap or minutes walked. Provide participants with break stations with refreshments, donated if possible. Carefully determine the best time and location for walk-a-thon. Set up your event with a registration/informational table. An event like this is best on a weekend morning in the warmer months.

Share your ideas with us!  
Email [info@missiondoctors.org](mailto:info@missiondoctors.org) with other ideas you have and we might put them on our website!

# APPENDIX 1: SOCIAL TEACHING CARDS

## DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

**SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE:**  
Exodus 22:21-27, Mark 10:17-31

### CATHOLIC TEACHING:

All people are created in the image of God, and thus all human life, at all stages from conception through death, is sacred. The basic dignity that each person possesses comes from God; therefore all discrimination is wrong. People take precedence over things and structures. Systems are meant to serve people, not vice versa.

## COMMUNITY AND THE COMMON GOOD

**SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE:**  
Acts 2:43-47, John 13:34-35

### CATHOLIC TEACHING:

The mystery of the Trinity involves the relationship of complete love among the three divine persons- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in one God. As persons made in God's image, we must model God's self-giving love. Hence the human person is both sacred and fundamentally social. In community we realize the fulfillment of our dignity and rights in relationship with and to others.

## SOLIDARITY

**SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE:**  
1 Corinthians 12:24-26, Matthew 25:31-46

### CATHOLIC TEACHING:

We are all one human family in the world. Because we realize our dignity, rights, and responsibilities in relationship with others, we need to continue to build a community that empowers people to attain their full human potential. By working for justice, we fulfill our mandate to build the body of Christ.

## RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE:**  
James 1:22-27, Matthew 20:26-28

### CATHOLIC TEACHING:

People have basic rights and responsibilities because of their human dignity that reflects the fact that they are created in God's image. Catholic teaching emphasizes that people have a right to life and to the basic necessities that provide quality to life: food, shelter, health care, education, and employment. We are called to respect the rights of others and seek the common good.

## OPTION FOR THE POOR

**SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE:**  
Psalm 72, Luke 16:19-31

### CATHOLIC TEACHING:

The Gospel calls Christians to put the needs of the poor first. A common moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable people. Wherever there is structural injustice, Christians are called to oppose it. Those with the greatest need require the greatest response.



# APPENDIX 2: GLOBAL RESOURCES & RIGHTS

1. What percentage of the people in the world live in poverty?
  - a. 25%
  - b. 35%
  - c. 50%
  - d. 75%
2. Approximately, how many people in the world live without religious freedom?
  - a. 500,000
  - b. 1,000,000
  - c. 1,900,000,000
  - d. 3,500,000,000
3. Approximately, how many people in the world live without enough food?
  - a. 820,000
  - b. 800,000,000
  - c. 815,000,000
  - d. 3,750,000,000
4. On average, you are wealthier than what percentage of the world?
  - a. 43%
  - b. 52%
  - c. 71%
  - d. 95%
5. How many people in the world live without access to health services?
  - a. 1 in 2
  - b. 1 in 5
  - c. 1 in 15
  - d. 1 in 30

# APPENDIX 2: GLOBAL RESOURCES & RIGHTS

## Answer Sheet with Additional Statistics

1. What percentage of the people in the world live in poverty?

- a. 25%
- b. 35%
- c. 50%
- d. 75%

1 billion children live in poverty. Nearly 1/2 of the world's population — more than 3 billion people — live on less than \$2.50 a day.

2. Approximately, how many people in the world live without religious freedom?

- a. 500,000
- b. 1,000,000
- c. 1,900,000,000
- d. 3,500,000,000

25% of the world's population lives in countries with heavy restrictions on freedom of religion.

3. Approximately, how many people in the world live without enough food?

- a. 820,000
- b. 800,000,000
- c. 815,000,000
- d. 3,750,000,000

815 million people go hungry around the world.

4. On average, you are wealthier than what percentage of the world?

- a. 43%
- b. 52%
- c. 71%
- d. 95%

Almost half the world - over three billion people - live on less than \$2.50 a day. 25,000 children die each day due to poverty.

5. How many people in the world live without access to health services?

- a. 1 in 2
- b. 1 in 5
- c. 1 in 15
- d. 1 in 30

2.2 million children die each year because they are not immunized.

# APPENDIX 3: REFLECTION ON GRATITUDE

## REFLECTION ON GRATITUDE

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of the people in the world.

If you can attend a church or synagogue meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are more blessed than 3,000,000,000 people in the world.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are more blessed than 500,000,000 people in the world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the 1,000,000 who will not survive this week.