



Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City Prayer and Action Network

FOOD FOR THE POOR: Catholic teaching asserts that access to healthy and adequate food is not just a right. It is a right which is trampled on every day for the 842 million children, women and men who are hungry in the world. Pope Francis speaks often about the hungry and the poor, explaining, *“We are in front of a global scandal of around one billion – one billion people who still suffer from hunger today. We cannot look the other way and pretend this does not exist. The food available in the world is enough to feed everyone.”*

What can you do? Watch [Pope Francis’s video message](#) for the launch of One Human Family, Food for All. Don’t forget “One Human Family, Food for All” on Dec. 10. Join us in prayer at noon, local time, Tuesday, December 10, 2013 for the campaign kickoff. Pope Francis will launch the worldwide movement to respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our midst by praying and acting to end hunger. At noon local time, a global wave of prayer will begin in Tonga and will progress around the world until it reaches American Samoa some 24 hours and more than 164 countries later. Pledge your prayerful participation [here](#). For more information, visit <http://food.caritas.org/>.

MEDICAID EXPANSION: The debate over Medicaid Expansion in Utah continues. Recent comments from some key legislators suggest the state will turn down full expansion and opt instead for the more expensive partial expansion option. This means that individuals living at 100% of the federal poverty line or below will be fully covered by Medicaid, but individuals living between 101 and 138% will have to buy private insurance, with possible state assistance in the form of a premium subsidy. In other words, an individual who makes \$11,490 a year will have Medicaid coverage, while an individual who makes \$12,000 per year will be expected to pay for private health insurance. As former Lieutenant Governor Greg Bell explained, some legislators feel that the person making \$12,000 per year should pay 2-5% of their income for health insurance.

While this may sound reasonable, the difference in standard of living for the person making \$11,490 per year and the person at \$12,000 is not great. For most, making ends meet each month will still be difficult, and adding a new expense is not the most helpful approach for helping the person move out of poverty.

What can you do? Contact Gov. Herbert’s office at 801-538-1000 and ask him to expand Medicaid to cover the full 123, 546 Utahns who would qualify for Medicaid under a full expansion, or at least guarantee that those who are barely across the 100% line receive subsidies that cover the full costs of private healthcare premiums.

FAST FOR FAMILIES CONTINUES: On the National Mall, the four core fasters leading the [“Fast 4 Families”](#) ordained new fasters and ended their 22-day, water-only fast. Members of Congress, the faith community and civil and immigrant rights groups turned out to witness the four fasters passing the baton over to others who will continue the fast until House Speaker John Boehner schedules a vote on immigration reform.

What can you do? Join Bishop Wester in fasting on each Friday in Advent as an act of solidarity with the fasters in D.C. A fast may mean skipping a meal or eating one simple, main meal and two smaller meals during the day. In addition, you might consider skipping lunch for a day and using the time to contact your U.S. senator and representative in support of immigration reform. Read Bishop Wester’s comments on the fast and immigration reform at <http://www.icatholic.org/article/join-bishop-wester-in-the-fast-for-families-9716245>.

GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK: With approximately \$75 billion spent on Christmas gifts, 1.9 billion cards sent, and 20.8 million Christmas trees cut in the U.S. alone, the impact of this one holiday is immense. Choose wrapping materials that are sustainable, including leftover fabrics and recycled brown paper bags, and use good old scrunched up newspapers to pack gifts for shipping.

PRAYER: One Human Family Campaign Prayer (to be used Tues. at noon, and any other time)

O God, you entrusted to us the fruits of all creation so that we might care for the earth and be nourished with its bounty.

You sent us your Son to share our very flesh and blood and to teach us your Law of Love. Through His death and resurrection, we have been formed into one human family.

Jesus showed great concern for those who had no food – even transforming five loaves and two fish into a banquet that served five thousand and many more.

We come before you, O God, conscious of our faults and failures, but full of hope, to share food with all members in this global family.

Through your wisdom, inspire leaders of government and of business, as well as all the world's citizens, to find just, and charitable solutions to end hunger by assuring that all people enjoy the right to food.

Thus we pray, O God, that when we present ourselves for Divine Judgment, we can proclaim ourselves as "One Human Family" with "Food for All". AMEN.