



A Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty:

Trade • Aid • Debt

Bulletin Quotes

On Global Poverty

- Poverty is a plague against which humanity must fight without cease.

Pope Benedict XVI, Public Audience, October 16, 2005

- "The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts."

Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Gaudium et Spes, The Church in the Modern World

On Just Trade

- A just trading system—in addition to breaking down barriers to promote growth—should enhance the life and dignity of everyone, lessen economic injustice, and help eradicate poverty. ...The moral measure of the U.S. trade relationship with Africa is whether it helps reduce poverty among Africa's poorest peoples.

A Call to Solidarity with Africa, A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, November 14, 2001

- If trade agreements are shaped by a proper moral perspective, they can promote human development — while respecting the environment — by fostering closer economic cooperation among and within countries and by raising standards of living, especially for the poorest and most abandoned. Human solidarity must accompany economic integration so as to preserve community life, protect families and livelihoods, and defend local cultures.

Joint Statement on CAFTA by the Bishops' Secretariat of Central America (SEDAC) and the Chairmen of the Domestic and International Policy Committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) 2005.

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On Effective aid

- (Official Development Aid) must be increased, not just spent better; and above all, policies to eradicate poverty must continue to concentrate not only on "what" or "how," but firstly on "who." A clear idea of who the poor are, followed by practical, direct, personal assistance to them through people-centered policies must always be borne in mind. Only such a focus will promote the poor as real people, because it is a focus based upon the dignity of every man, woman and child, rather than upon policies that risk overlooking their worth as persons.

Holy See's Address at U.N. on Development , 2005

- The only really effective means of enabling States to deal with the grave problem of poverty is to provide them with the necessary resources through foreign financial aid -- public and private -- granted under reasonable conditions, within the framework of international commercial relations regulated with fairness.

Pope John Paul II, Message for 2005 World Day of Peace

On Debt Reduction

- People from the world's richest countries should be prepared to accept the burden of debt reduction for heavily indebted poor countries, and should urge their leaders to fulfill the pledges made to reduce world poverty, especially in Africa, by the year 2015.

Pope Benedict XVI, Message to the Make Poverty History March, July 2, 2005

- Our analysis of the debt problem begins with the presumption that when countries, like individuals, contract a loan, they have an obligation to repay it. But this presumption may be overridden in certain circumstances. One such instance is when a country cannot repay its debt without critical reductions in spending for health, education, food, housing, and other basic needs, and when debt has become a serious obstacle to development

A Jubilee Call for Debt Forgiveness, A Statement by the Administrative Board of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, April 1999

