



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, April 2, 2023

### Bread for the World

Every five years, Congress passes legislation that sets national agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry policy, commonly referred to as the “**Farm Bill**.”

“The impact of the farm bill is significant. It not only affects the agriculture and food sectors; it can play a huge role in ending food insecurity and hunger in the U.S. and save the lives of millions abroad.

This year, Congress is working to renew farm bill programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and international food aid programs. Among the measures that should be included are strengthening nutrition security in domestic and international programs; creating a more equitable SNAP program; and increasing food systems sustainability.” (*Bread for the World*, Washington, D.C.) [Tell your senators and representatives to support the reauthorization of the farm bill in order to build healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.](#)

The United States is the richest country on Earth and yet, **34 million people are food insecure, including 9 million children** (*Hunger in America*). “One in eight kids continue to live with hunger in the U.S., and inflation has made it increasingly difficult for low- and middle-income families to afford the meals they need.” (*No Kid Hungry*, 3/24/23)

“Starting in March, food stamp recipients will no longer see a second payment or emergency allotment in their accounts. While President Biden is set to declare the pandemic officially over in May, food insecurity is expected to continue rising, putting increased pressure on local food banks and neighborhood food pantries....

Over the past year, we’ve already seen a **70% increase in the number of people turning to locations for food assistance**.... According to the Coalition Against Hunger, there are about 700 pantries and soup kitchens across Philadelphia. The organization manages a SNAP hotline for people who need help navigating the food stamp system and maintains a list of food pantries. (Lynette Hazelton, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 3/1/23)

At Holy Cross, with the generosity of parishioners in time and donations, two ministries serve to feed the hungry. The **Food Pantry** is open to needy families every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Donations can be dropped off in the church vestibule during weekend Masses, or on the ground floor of the church during pantry hours. Also, several of our Holy Cross parishioners volunteer once a month to prepare a meal at **The Face to Face Program** at St. Vincent’s Parish.

“Why should there be hunger and deprivation in any land, in any city, at any table, when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all mankind with the basic necessities of life? There is no deficit in human resources. The deficit is in human will.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.