



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

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, April 6, 2025

What You Did for the Least of These, You Did for Me

Recently, the current administration announced **“it is cancelling more than 90 percent of the U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) foreign aid grants and contracts and \$60 billion in overall humanitarian assistance.** This includes programs providing lifesaving emergency nutrition supplements to tens of millions of children globally.... Right now, people in five countries and territories are living in famine conditions. More than 45 million children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, which is immediately endangering their lives. **Without this assistance millions of children will be at risk of permanent stunting and death.**

International aid makes up less than 1 percent of the total U.S. federal budget, but its impact is outsized in terms of saving lives and strengthening U.S. national security.... [Please email your members of Congress now](#) and urge them to call on the administration to restore lifesaving programs and include significant funding for humanitarian aid in the fiscal year 2025 and 2026 budgets.” (*Bread for the World*, 2/28/25)

In a statement released on March 17, **Catholic Relief Services (CRS) reported halting “much of our U.S. government supported work due to the lack of payments:** food in warehouses could not be distributed to the hungry, and women and children could not get vital health and nutrition services.” According to the statement, the “termination of dozens of CRS’ life-saving projects will permanently cut off critical aid to more than 20 million people worldwide.” (Kevin Clarke, *America*, 3/27/25)

“Eliminating our government’s meager but so crucial assistance to those who are in need for clinics, health, vaccines, and food services throughout the world is utterly contrary to our life as disciples of Jesus Christ.” (Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, speaking at a conference in Washington on March 24 sponsored by Jesuit Refugee Service/USA and the Center for Migration Studies of New York)

“Our country will be judged on how well we responded to the least of these. What’s the point of being the most powerful and wealthiest country in the world if you don’t use that power and that wealth for the betterment of others and for the advancement of the common good on a global scale?” (William O’Keefe, C.R.S.’s executive vice president for Mission, Mobilization and Advocacy, *America*, 3/27/25)

Tell Congress to engage with the Administration to continue allowing international assistance programs to operate during the review process. [Here is an email](#) from Catholic Relief Services that you can send to your elected officials regarding the US international aid freeze. (Beth Ford McNamee, Director, *Center for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation*, 3/28/25)

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, who created U.S.A.I.D., **“here on earth God’s work must truly be our own.”**

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org.
[Click here for column archive.](#)