



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

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, October 16, 2022

### God's Greatest Gift is Life. It is Our Duty to Protect It

As Fr. Emmons noted in his homily last Sunday, it is our responsibility as Catholics to protect life from the womb to the tomb. That includes feeding the hungry.

**Nutritious food is a human right for all people.** “Yet 10% of U.S. households in 2021 suffered food insecurity, meaning they were uncertain they could get enough food to feed themselves or their families because they lacked money or resources for food, according to the Food and Drug Administration.” (Colleen Long & Ashraf Khalil, AP, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 9/28/22)

“... for the first time since 1969, the White House held a conference on hunger, nutrition, and health. Biden is bringing together the private sector and government to try to end hunger in America by 2030. The 1969 conference under President Richard Nixon led to a big expansion in food assistance programs. Now, **a variety of companies and foundations have pledged \$8 billion to address food insecurity...**” (Heather Cox Richardson, *Letters from an American*, 9/28/22)

The national strategy also calls for doctors, nurses, and dentists to be trained to spot the signs of hunger. “By 2030, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the anti-hunger nonprofit *Share Our Strength* will commit to offering training to all 67,000 AAP member pediatricians on both screening for nutrition insecurity and referring patients to federal and community nutrition resources.” (Joyce Frieden, Washington Editor, *MedPage Today*, 9/28/22)

And “after steadily declining for a decade, **global hunger is on the rise.** Malnutrition is the leading risk factor for death among children globally, accounting for 45 percent of all child deaths—losses that are almost entirely preventable.” (*Bread for the World*) Families are struggling to meet their food needs due to the compound effects of conflict, climate change, COVID-19, and rising food costs. (*Catholic Relief Services*)

**Take two simple actions** to treat and prevent global malnutrition. Go to <https://bit.ly/100dop194>. Secondly, urge Congress to reauthorize existing international programs in the 2023 Farm Bill that address immediate hunger needs and support long-term solutions. Go to <https://bit.ly/100dop193>.

**You can also act closer to home.** Holy Cross Parish is partnering with *Face to Face* in Germantown (123 E. Price St.) to serve those in need by **helping with either meal prep in the kitchen or serving meals in the dining room.** Groups of 8 volunteers are needed on **Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.** Times for meal prep = 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Times for serving meals = 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Sr. Ruthann who is organizing the volunteers at [ssjruthann@gmail.com](mailto:ssjruthann@gmail.com) if you can help.

“God of Abundance, transform my heart today so that I will use my actions to eliminate poverty by feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and protecting those sickened due to scarcity and deprivation.” (*SSJ Center for Justice*, 100 Days of Prayer 2022)