

Legislative Advocacy

Our Catholic social teaching calls us to uphold the life and dignity of the human person, to be in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world and to exercise a preferential option for the poor. In response to Catholic social teaching and the call of the Gospel, the Diocese is involved in helping meet the basic and emergency needs of the people in Haiti and in sustainable economic and ecological development projects. In addition to these ministry actions, Catholic social teaching calls us to advocate to our U.S. government to enact just policies toward Haiti.

Debt Relief Update and Action

Despite initiatives advocated by our Church and others to reduce the foreign debt of the world's poorest countries over the last several years, many countries, including Haiti still have debt burdens. Because of debt payments, impoverished countries cannot invest in health care, education and foster development.

In October of 2007, the Diocese of Richmond participated in Jubilee USA's National Cancel the Debt Fast and Congressional Call in Campaign. Presently The Jubilee Debt Act, HR 2634 has 94 co-sponsors and SB 2166 has 19 co-sponsors. Unfortunately the only Virginia Congressional Representative who has signed on is Rep. James Morgan.

Actions to take:

- Join the Virginia Catholic Conference to receive timely legislative alerts on this issue.
- Write to your Congressional Legislators and share your interest, passion and personal experience of Haiti and encourage them to co sponsor the Jubilee Act. To contact your legislators, visit www.vacatholic.org/legislation
- Participate in National Catholic Advocacy Day in Washington DC this year in April. Information and registration will be available from the Office of Justice and Peace.
- Visit www.jubileeusa.org for more information on the Debt Relief Campaign

