

Partner Profiles (1)—Compassion for the People and the Planet

JustFaith Ministries works in close collaboration with the following organizations. Each of these organizations addresses issues related to poverty and actively engages some of the key themes of Christian social justice through their work. These brief profiles (providing different information at the end of each phase of the JustFaith program) are offered to help you understand how these organizations make an option for (and with) the poor and how they connect human life and dignity with compassion through their work.

Bread for the World

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation’s decision makers to end hunger and poverty at home and abroad. In his 2015 encyclical, Pope Francis observes that environmental and social problems are interconnected. Pope Francis writes, “it is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems (Paragraph 139).”

Bread for the World believes we can end hunger in our time. But ending hunger requires more than just giving people a meal today, it requires addressing the root causes of hunger. As long as people don’t have the resources they need to put food on the table, hunger will continue. Churches around our country engage in the corporal work of mercy by feeding the hungry; likewise Bread for the World churches often operate food pantries and soup kitchens. But as part of their faithful witness, Bread churches also engage in policy advocacy to ensure economic security and self-sufficiency over the long-term for people in the U.S. and around the world.

While we recognize that the world as a whole has been making unprecedented progress against hunger, poverty, and disease, we believe it is possible to make further progress in addressing the 795 million people who experience hunger every day. In the United States, one in every five kids lives at risk of hunger.

Our federal government must do its part to change policies, programs, and systems that allow hunger and poverty to exist. Recently, Bread for the World has done extensive study and reporting on environmental fragility as a root cause of hunger that Congress must address meaningfully if we are to end hunger by 2030 – you can read more in the 2017 Hunger Report, *Fragile Environments, Resilient Communities* available at www.hungerreport.org. Bread for the World equips and mobilizes ordinary Christians to raise their voices before our political decision makers and to make ending hunger a priority for our nation. Each year, we invite churches to make an Offering of Letters to Congress on an issue directly connected to hunger and poverty. With hundreds of thousands of letters to Congress, we help shape our laws so they are more just and merciful toward all of God’s people.

For more information, visit www.bread.org

Maryknoll

Together, the compassion of the Maryknoll mission organizations – Maryknoll Sisters, Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, the Maryknoll Affiliates movement – transforms lives and transforms our Earth. We invite you to learn more about us at www.maryknoll.org.

The mission work done by Maryknoll in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the U.S., with people who live in poverty and exclusion, cannot help but call forth compassion. This compassion grows into a revolution of tenderness for all who are suffering and vulnerable – including our Earth. It spurs us to join together in seeking solutions that can result in lives of greater dignity and hope for all of us. For the world to live in peace and the Earth to flourish, we all must be involved in respecting and nurturing the connection and responsibility we have to one another and to creation.

The journeys of the Maryknoll Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Lay Missioners, and Affiliates, made in imitation of Christ, carry them deeply into the lives and hearts of others. Through these experiences, the “otherness” drops away. The missionaries start to see that much of the brokenness, the lack of opportunity, and the obstacles to a fullness of life that the people they grow to love face, are bigger than questions of culture and faith. They see firsthand that the roles of various structures and systems also need to be understood and addressed — and addressed together because they are too big for any of us to face alone. This is why the Maryknoll mission organizations together form the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, an advocacy office to carry the experiences of missionaries from around the world to policy makers in Washington, D.C., and at the United Nations.

Together we can carry on the mission of Jesus embodied in Catholic social ministry. Together we pray, study, and act for a just and peaceful world.

We invite you to join us:

- in service on short- or long-term international mission experiences with www.friendsacrossborders.org or <http://www.mklm.org/become-a-missioner/> or <http://maryknollmissiontrips.org>;
- in reflection with missionaries on latest trends in mission during week-long residential programs with <https://maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute-2/>
- in education for parish and school ministers through classes with <http://www.maryknoll.us/>;
- in online social analysis and advocacy with www.maryknollogc.org;
- in formation of faith and action in small groups with <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/>

Come and join us! “Let us sing as we go,” Pope Francis writes in *Laudato Si'*. “May our struggles and our concern for this planet [and for each other] never take away the joy of our hope!”