

Partner Profiles (2)—Poverty at Home and Abroad

As noted in Phase 1, JustFaith Ministries works in close collaboration with the following organizations. These brief profiles provide additional information on each of them.

Bread for the World

Our experience of God's mercy and compassion for all people moves us to engage in God's work of overcoming hunger and human misery, and our sacred tradition includes visions of the world transformed. We are convinced that God has anointed this a special time to put our faith into action. Over the last couple decades, we have made historic progress reducing extreme poverty and hunger. In fact, Pope Francis, the Gates Foundation, and the World Bank have each presented convincing evidence that ending hunger and extreme poverty by 2030 is within reach and most clergy in the United States agree.

But, ending extreme poverty and hunger will require action by all sectors of society, especially government, and by all the nations of the world. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger, at home and abroad. By equipping local churches to engage in policy advocacy, people of faith can help shape a future where no one is hungry.

Every year, Bread for the World invites churches across the country to take up an offering, not of money, but of letters to Congress on an issue that is important to hungry people. This moment is critical if we are to end hunger and extreme poverty by 2030; if we are to reach that goal we must begin building towards it now. Bread for the World is asking churches to write their Senators and Representative, urging them to make sound financial choices for our country and adequately invest in programs that put us on track to end hunger. Right now, powerful forces in Congress and the Trump administration are pushing to dismantle or cut funding for programs like SNAP (formerly food stamps), WIC, Medicaid, and numerous international poverty focused development assistance programs – all programs that are helping hungry people now and will be critical to ending hunger by 2030. You can learn more about writing to Congress and how to get your community involved at www.bread.org/ol.

If all of God's creation is to thrive, the U.S. Congress must invest in ending extreme poverty.

Maryknoll

Because of the pervasive presence of poverty and the lack of work options and resources for so many people in the world, Maryknoll missionaries recognize that economic development is a vital part of their ministry. Responding to their baptismal call to mission and inspired by the life of Jesus, Maryknoll missionaries work together for changes at all levels of society to help build a New Creation that is inclusive of all and that fits within the physical capacities of Earth.

In Zimbabwe, the Maryknoll Sisters help people engage in sustainable agriculture and develop self-reliance. In other parts of Africa, they have initiated a cottage industry where young women (orphans whose parents died of AIDS) learn to be self-reliant. The young women make sweaters, school uniforms, vestments, cards, necklaces, and other goods and also learn how to apply for small loans to set up small businesses to support their families.

In Nepal, the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers help people generate income, and get access to health care and nutritional staples. In other parts of Asia, they offer pre-departure training to safeguard people who plan to work abroad in order to support their families; and they help migrant laborers once they are alone in a foreign land.

In El Salvador, Maryknoll Lay Missioners help people develop entrepreneurial skills while learning about proper nutrition. Women learn how to produce soy milk for their families and how to sell it for income. In other parts of Latin America, they teach teens job and life skills, train farmers on sustainable agriculture methods, and help refugees settle into new homes, jobs, and schools.

In the United States, the Maryknoll Affiliates meet in local chapters and often commit themselves to a particular local or global action – such as shifting to renewable energy, supporting local livable wage campaigns and local food systems, supporting Maryknoll’s education programs, and joining immersion trips overseas.

In Washington, D.C. and at the United Nations in New York, Maryknoll addresses economic justice through the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, which raises concerns from missionaries on the impact of globalization on impoverished communities where Maryknoll missionaries serve and the impact of trade and investment. They also network with groups through the New Economy Coalition to explore ways we can work toward a more equitable, Earth-centered, and democratic economy.

Maryknoll asks . . . *Did You Know?*

- Repeated debt crises in the 1980s and 1990s gave creditors, including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the power to reshape the economies of more than 100 countries.
- Maryknoll works closely with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, which uses shareholder resolutions and other forms of pressure to bring about positive changes in corporate policies.
- People of diverse faiths are engaging in alternative economic models, from co-ops, public credit unions, community purchasing programs, to local-driven renewable energy and food systems, and much more.
- Together we can construct ways to continue learning from each other and collaborate in the future.

Learn more at:

www.maryknoll.org • www.maryknollogc.org • www.friendsacrossborders.org