

GLOBAL POVERTY REFLECTION WALK

This Reflection Walk is designed to help you pray and make the connection between your life and the lives of our brothers and sisters living in poverty overseas. Spend time at each of the six stations, reading the reflections and praying with the accompanying objects and images.

Now, begin the Reflection Walk, aware of the presence of God and all the members of our one human family, spread across the world.



Photo by Oscar Leiva/Silverlight for CRS

● BREAD

BREAD IS A CENTRAL SYMBOL IN OUR CATHOLIC FAITH. CHRIST, THE BREAD OF LIFE, NOURISHES US IN THE EUCHARIST. WE PRAY TO OUR FATHER THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE OUR DAILY BREAD. WE READ OF CHRIST'S MIRACLE OF THE MULTIPLICATION OF THE LOAVES IN THE GOSPELS. YET, MANY PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD DO NOT HAVE THEIR DAILY BREAD.

Take a moment and pray the Our Father, praying especially that everyone may have their daily bread. What is one small step you can take to help people in your local community who go without their daily bread? What about in the global community?

Give us today our daily bread.

—Matthew 6:11



Photo by Sara A. Fajardo/CRS



● SECURITY

NEARLY HALF OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION LIVES ON LESS THAN \$2 A DAY. THIS FORCES THEM TO MAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS—IMAGINE HAVING TO DECIDE BETWEEN FOOD OR MEDICINE FOR YOUR ILL CHILD.

When was a time that you had to make a difficult decision, choosing between two necessities or between two opportunities? How might you help our brothers and sisters living in poverty so that they will no longer need to make these types of decisions?

Open your hand freely to your poor and to your needy kin in your land.

—Deuteronomy 15:11



Photo by Jake Lyell for CRS

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- **WATER**

WATER IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE. ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF OUR BODIES ARE WATER—AND WATER ALLOWS OUR FOOD TO GROW. BUT WHEN THERE IS NOT ENOUGH OF IT, OR TOO MUCH, WATER CAN BE DESTRUCTIVE.

Many of our brothers and sisters around the world face drought, which makes it difficult to grow food. Others face the destructive forces of hurricanes, typhoons and floods. Can you remember a time you witnessed the destructive force of water—either the lack of it or its excess? How can you help conserve this precious resource for our one human family?

But whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

—John 4:14



Photo by Jennifer Hardy/CRS

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● HOME

MANY OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVE IN HOUSES THAT ARE DIFFERENT FROM OURS. THEIR HOMES DO NOT HAVE PLUMBING OR ELECTRICITY, AND CANNOT WITHSTAND NATURAL DISASTERS. SOMETIMES THEY ARE FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES BECAUSE OF WAR OR VIOLENCE.

Think about your home. What makes it a home? Do you feel comfortable there? Do you feel safe? Think about a time you lost electricity or your home was damaged in a storm. How did you feel? How would you feel if you were told you could not return home today because of violence?

Better one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.

—Psalm 84:11



Photo by Mikaele Sansone/CRS



● WORK

THIS MAY LOOK LIKE JUST A PIECE OF FABRIC. BUT TO ONE OF OUR BROTHERS OR SISTERS LIVING IN POVERTY, IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY. AT CRS-SUPPORTED CENTERS, OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS LEARN NEW SKILLS—LIKE CLOTH MAKING—THAT HELP THEM EARN AN INCOME.

As Catholics, we believe there is dignity in work since when we work, we participate in the divine act of creation. Recall what it was like to receive your first paycheck or buy something you saved for. How might you help our poorest brothers and sisters feel that same dignity and pride in their work?

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth.

—Genesis 1:1



Photo by Michelle Giffilland for CRS



- **FAMILY**

THIS IS A PICTURE OF EDITH. SHE LIVES AT A CRS-SUPPORTED CENTER IN BURKINA FASO, AND SHE IS YOUR SISTER. SHE IS A CHILD OF GOD, JUST LIKE YOU AND ALL OTHER HUMANS ON EARTH.

Think about the pictures you have framed around your home. Do you have pictures of family, friends or loved ones? As Catholics, we believe that as children of God we are all members of one human family. What would it be like to take seriously the fact that we are all part of one human family?

So we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.

— *Romans 12:5*

CLOSING REFLECTION

Which of the stations had the biggest impact on you? Why?

What is one small thing you can do to be more mindful of the connection between your life and the lives of our poorest brothers and sisters around the world living in poverty?

Conclude your walk by writing a prayer for our one human family and placing it in the container below.