

CATHOLICS

CONFRONT

GLOBAL

POVERTY

## TIPS FOR USING SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a creative and easy way for you to put your faith into action. You can post, comment, retweet and like. You can also share messages, videos and photos to raise awareness and educate others about global poverty. And you can take action to shape policies that protect our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters overseas.



Photo by Philip Laubner/CRS

By connecting with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services' social media channels, you can receive concise and up-to-date information about the Church's work helping those most in need, especially during a crisis or emergency like Typhoon Haiyan. CRS and our partner Caritas were one of the first teams on the ground when it struck the Philippines in November 2013. Technology allowed us to share updates, photos and stories with Catholics across the globe. Even more important, we used it to invite millions of our brothers and sisters to pray in solidarity with families in the Philippines.

### AMPLIFY YOUR MESSAGE WITH SOCIAL MEDIA!

Did you know that your members of Congress use social media too? In fact, it's one of the ways they gather feedback from constituents like you! In a [2014 poll](#) conducted by the Congressional Management Foundation, 75 percent of congressional staff responded that personal comments on social media were effective tools for communicating constituent views. And since it's considered constituent communication, you don't have to worry that your Facebook post or tweet won't get counted.

### WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Using social media to confront global poverty is easy to do. If Pope Francis can tweet, we know you can too! Follow him at [@Pontifex](#).

### JOIN US

1-866-608-5978  
[info@confrontglobalpoverty.org](mailto:info@confrontglobalpoverty.org)  
[confrontglobalpoverty.org](http://confrontglobalpoverty.org)



Photo by Philip Laubner/CRS

*"THE INTERNET, IN PARTICULAR, OFFERS IMMENSE POSSIBILITIES FOR ENCOUNTER AND SOLIDARITY. THIS IS SOMETHING TRULY GOOD, A GIFT FROM GOD."*

—POPE FRANCIS

## HERE'S HOW TO GET STARTED

### 1. IF YOU'RE NOT ALREADY USING FACEBOOK OR TWITTER, SIGN UP TODAY.

### 2. GET TO KNOW YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

- Start by entering your ZIP code [here](#) to figure out who your senators and representatives are.
- Visit their websites to learn more about them, the issues they care about and the committees they serve on. You can Google them or visit [congress.gov/members](http://congress.gov/members).
- Follow your members on Facebook and/or Twitter—their websites should contain their Facebook page information and Twitter handles.

### 3. CONNECT WITH US! FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND PINTEREST:

- [CRS Facebook](#)
- [USCCB Facebook](#)
- [CRS Espanol](#)
- CRS Twitter: [@CatholicRelief](#)
- USCCB Twitter: [@USCCB](#)
- Pinterest: ["Catholic Relief Services"](#)

### 4. MAKE YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES MORE EFFECTIVE:

- Make your message personal—let your member of Congress know why you care about the issue.
- If you're speaking out about a piece of legislation that's moving through Congress over a period of time, consider posting a weekly comment. Staying active on an issue is very important.
- Be sure to include that you're a member of Catholics Confront Global Poverty.
- Ask your friends, family members and followers to comment too! Multiple comments on an issue can capture the attention of congressional staffers.

A partnership between the  
United States Conference  
of Catholic Bishops  
and Catholic Relief Services

