

Inspiring Hope and Solidarity: A resource for Parishes and Religious Educators

“The one who has hope lives differently.”
(*Spe Salvi*, Pope Benedict XVI, 2007)

Did you know?

Some interesting and perhaps shocking facts for your parish or school newsletter:

- The worlds’ poorest countries pay more than \$100 million each day to rich countries and lenders. For every \$1 dollar poor countries receive in aid they give \$5 in debt repayments.
- 2.6 billion people lack clean water and sanitation.
- The number of hungry people in the world, now over one billion, has been rising for the past 15 years. 98% of these people live in countries of the global South.
- Tax dodging by Multi-national companies robs countries of the Global South over US\$ 160 billion per year.
- One in four children in developing countries is underweight while one in four Irish children is now overweight.
- In 2008, the Irish government collected €41 billion in tax receipts. The government of Rwanda collected €400m in tax receipts in 2008
- The average Irish person can expect to live to be 79. The life expectancy of someone living in Zambia is just 38.
- There are 44 million child labourers in India
- 8% of Bangladesh’s national income is raised through tax. 37% of the UK’s national income is raised in tax
- 78% of people living in the United States have access to the internet. 65% of Irish people are online while just 11% of Africans have access to the internet.
- The number of people living with HIV rose from around 8 million in 1990 to 33 million by the end of 2009.
- Almost 20 million children are orphaned as a result of AIDS.
- The Philippines gives \$9.9 billion each year to the rich world in debt payments.
- Due to enormous public pressure from people all around the world over US\$100 billion of unpayable and unjust debts of countries of the Global South have been cancelled.

If the world’s population was reduced to a village of 100 people,
37 would live on less than \$2 a day
80 would live in sub-standard housing
50 would be malnourished
33 would lack access to safe water
24 would have no electricity
1 would have a university degree

Source: 80:20 Ireland in an Unequal World