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