

St. Joseph the Worker Pledge



The current economic downturn presents an opportunity for Catholic Christians to be instruments of hope and agents of change within our parishes and the broader society. In his 2008 Christmas Day message, Pope Benedict XVI warned that the world was headed toward ruin if selfishness prevails over solidarity during tough economic times for rich and poor nations.

Our U.S. Bishops have recently reminded us that “we are all in this together. Hard times can isolate us or they bring us together. The Catholic community will continue to reach out to those in need, stand with those who are hurt, and work for policies that bring greater compassion, accountability and justice to economic life.”

In solidarity with our sisters and brothers, both in the United States and throughout the world, who are experiencing job loss, home foreclosure, burdensome debt, and loss of hope, I pledge the following:

- ❖ Pray every day for all who have been affected by this economic crisis. There are suggested prayers at www.catholic-action.org, the web site of the diocesan Social Action Office, under the Economic Crisis resources. More can be found on the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops web site on the issue, <http://www.usccb.org/jphd/economiclife/>.
- ❖ Talk to my family and friends about the issues, inviting them to pray and take action.
- ❖ Engage in dialogue and actions in my parish and my community to help those who are having difficulties during these times. Reflection and discussion ideas are on the web site, www.catholic-action.org.
- ❖ Remember that the poorest communities and countries are most affected by this crisis and take action by joining the USCCB campaign, *Catholics Confront Global Poverty*, by going to www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/ and click on “join.”

O Saint Joseph, we pray to you for those who are out of work, for those who want to earn their living or support their families. You who are the patron of workers, grant that unemployment may vanish from our ranks. Do not let those who have children to support and raise lack the necessary means. Help our political and economic leaders find new and just solutions. Grant that we may all share together in the abundant goods God has given us and that we may help underprivileged countries. Amen.

Signature

Date

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City and Zip _____ Parish _____

Please return to: Catholic Commission, PO Box 434, Akron, OH 44307.