



Second Collection for Catholic Charities in the Parishes: November 5 & 6, 2011

2010 Census Reveals Startling Growth of the Working-Class Poor

Did you know?

- Currently, the U.S. poverty rate stands at 15%, or 45 million people, up from 13% or 40 million people in 2008.
- Working-age adults are now the bulk of the U.S. poor. Census figures show the new working-age poor represent 3 out of 5 poor people, the highest on record, that include adults 18-64 who were laid off in the recent depression as well as “single twenty-somethings” still looking for jobs.
- Working families at low income now stand at 1 in 3. “Low income” is defined as those making less than 200% of the poverty threshold, or about \$43,000 for a family of four.
- There has been a shift from the early 1970’s when children made up the main impoverished group.
- While much of the shift in poverty is due to demographic changes, Americans are having fewer children than before, and the now weakened economy and limited safety net for workers are heightening the negative effects upon individuals and families.
- Income in central Florida has dropped dramatically as poverty soars. Adjusted for inflation, half of all households in Orange County made more than \$53,734 in 2007 and by 2010, that median income had dropped to \$45,140.
- Since 2007, median household income has declined 17% in Osceola County, 16% in Orange County, 15% in Lake, and 7% in Volusia. There has been a 6% decrease in Seminole County’s peak median household income between 2006 and 2010 from \$61,359 to \$57,802.
- Black and Hispanic individuals and families have been hit disproportionately based on their higher rates of unemployment.
- Americans are at risk of seeing a new underclass develop in which they are unable to support their children, form stable families, buy houses and achieve the status of middleclass.
- Catholic Charities primarily serves working poor individuals and families, who are one paycheck or one crisis away from homelessness, from the inability to provide food and medical care, and from painful and often heroic struggles to keep their families together.
- 70% of the needy individuals and families helped by Catholic Charities of Central Florida are non-Catholic. “We help the poor because we are Catholic, not because they are.”