



# Catholic Schools for Peace and Justice

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**February 14, 2007**

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## **CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPLORE N.E. OHIO'S POVERTY**

### **BISHOP ANTHONY PILLA WILL PRESENT KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS FROM LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS**

**CLEVELAND** - Catholic Schools for Peace and Justice (CSPJ) will sponsor the **Northeast Ohio Poverty Summit** on **Friday, March 9, 2007**. The goal of the summit is to educate Catholic high school students on the causes of and people living with economic insecurity in Northeast Ohio, especially the issues of **Homelessness, Education and Worker's Rights**.

#### **Northeast Ohio Poverty Summit Schedule for FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2007:**

- 8:45 AM Catholic Mass  
Celebrated by Most Reverend Richard G. Lennon, Bishop of Cleveland  
LOCATION: St. Patrick's Catholic Church (3602 Bridge Ave., Cleveland, 44113)
- 10:15 AM Opening Remarks and Welcome  
LOCATION:  
Sullivan Gymnasium  
St. Ignatius High School (1910 W. 30<sup>th</sup>, Cleveland, 44113)
- 10:30 AM Keynote Address  
Most Reverend Anthony Pilla, Retired Bishop  
LOCATION: Sullivan Gymnasium, St. Ignatius High School
- 11:00 AM "Faces of Poverty in Northeast Ohio" Video Presentation  
NOTE: Video was created by local Catholic high school students to express views on conditions faced by the economically poor of Northeast Ohio  
LOCATION: Sullivan Gymnasium, St. Ignatius High School
- 11:15 AM – 2:30 PM Workshop Sessions presented by local advocates for the economically poor.  
The workshops will focus on three major issues: Education, Homelessness, and Workers' Rights.  
LOCATION: Various rooms throughout St. Ignatius Campus
- 3:10 PM Closing Address and Prayer Service  
LOCATION: Sullivan Gymnasium, St. Ignatius High School

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**When asked why they wanted to participate in the Poverty Summit, Catholic high school students responded:**

"I participated in an Urban Plunge immersion experience at St. Joseph Academy, that opportunity allowed me to appreciate the reality of the homeless here in Cleveland. I hope that the Poverty Summit allows other students to become educated about poverty here and inspired to take action against it."

*Liz Hord, Senior, St. Joseph Academy*

"I hope the Poverty Summit causes more kids to become involved in these issues. The summit will present students with a lot of issues they never knew existed but also a lot of opportunities to get involved in helping. I hope they do!"

*Calder Mellino, Senior, St. Ignatius High School*

"I love the idea of having a large group of people come together to learn about poverty! I hope the summit will really inspire people. Hopefully people will take action to end poverty and really make a difference!"

*Caitlin Waickman, Junior, Magnificat High School*

"Afterward, I want to see a large number of students getting involved in solving the problems of poverty in our city and our world."

*Bridget Kent, Junior, Notre Dame Cathedral Latin High School*

**When asked why it was important for Catholic high school students to participate, teachers responded with the following comments:**

"It opens their eyes to the reality of poverty"

*Ms. Cathy Knittel, Theology Teacher, St. Joseph Academy*

"These students are creating the vision for the future. Cleveland is the poorest city in the country – we need their fresh perspective."

*Ms. Molly Linehan, Campus Minister, Notre Dame Cathedral Latin*

"These issues: homelessness, education, and workers' rights are issues that have and will continue to be problems for our society unless we gather together to work toward their solution! This summit provides our students with the opportunity to learn what these problems are and how to work their solutions."

*Mr. Tim Evans, History Teacher & Summit Co-Chair, St. Ignatius High School*

"It is integral to our Catholic faith to have a preferential option for the poor. This means that as Catholic school students, young people will be formed in the spirit who calls us ceaselessly to seek out people in need out of friendship and love."

*Mr. Augie Pacetti, Theology Teacher & Summit Co-Chair, Padua Franciscan High School*

"The students will participate in a day long experience with other schools throughout the Diocese to dispel the myths about poor people, to experience first hand those working to alleviate poverty throughout Northeast Ohio."

*Sr. Kathleen Ryan, S.N.D., CSPJ Liaison to the Cleveland Catholic Diocese*

**Catholic Schools for Peace and Justice** is an organization made up of representatives from Catholic High Schools and Colleges in the Diocese of Cleveland. There is a long tradition within these academic institutions of educating and taking action for social justice as guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

The group began in 2002 after teachers and campus ministers from various Catholic High Schools recognized the need and opportunity to collaborate efforts and resources. As colleagues in Catholic education, the school representatives meet at least twice per semester along with student representatives to share ideas, plan the events sponsored by the group, and invite each other's schools to participate in other valuable opportunities in the community.

To learn more about CSPJ visit: <http://www.cspj.net/>