Diocesan Social Action Office

A Call To Action: Possible Parish Actions in Response to the Economic Crisis

- **Sponsor a Parish Workshop featuring experts in the fields of foreclosure prevention and modification, employment, money management, debt reduction and other helpful consumer tips. The Catholic Commission can assist you in organizing such an event.**
- **Strengthen emergency services/safety net programs at the parish and in the community. Consider networking with your parish cluster.**
- **Assess the need for various support and networking groups within the parish.**
- **Actively track the implementation of the economic stimulus in Ohio and in the region; do your part to ensure transparency and accountability in the plan. Regularly visit www.catholic-action.org or www.usccb.org.**
- **Encourage greater participation in your Catholic Credit Union; explore creative ways in which the credit union may be of assistance to parishioners.**
- **Form a study/discussion group to become better informed about the root causes of the economic crisis. Read the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter, entitled "Economic Justice for All."**
- **Develop and publish a parish skills bank and/or jobs bank. (This is another opportunity for parish clustering).**
- **Develop a family plan and budget on how to "live more simply."**
- **Develop spiritual reflections on the meaning of solidarity and interdependence.**
- **Publicize the services of Angel Food Ministries in your parish. This ministry provides an allotment of fresh and frozen foods with a retail value of $60 for a cost of $30. Visit http://www.angelfoodministries.com/**
- **Utilize the parish bulletin to provide practical advice and tips to parishioners on the economic crisis.**

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- **Publicize the work of the Summit County Veteran Services Commission. The Commission offers financial assistance, medical care, counseling, veteran's affairs claims and benefits and other services. Visit the Commission @ http://www.summitohvets.us/.**

- **Offer a Mass for all those impacted by the economic downturn.**

- **Recruit parishioners who are willing to act as "job coaches" and match them with those seeking employment.**

- **Sponsor a parish program on "How to Manage my 401 (k) in a Bad Economy."**

- **Make a contribution to the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank. The food bank distributed 16 million pounds of food in 2008. 92 cents on every dollar goes toward providing food to those in need. Visit the food bank at www.akroncantonfoodbank.org.**

- **Make a contribution to groups serving the poorest of the poor, such as, the Fr. Hilkert Ozanam Center at Annunciation or the Catholic Worker.**

Prepared by: The Catholic Commission @ 330-535-2787 or www.catholic-action.org

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