

NETWORK EDUCATION PROGRAM

Partners with NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

TANF Tested: Lives of Families in Poverty during the Recession Spiritual Reflection

With a group, spend some time praying for the people behind the voices represented in the report, and for any and all who struggle with poverty. Take some time to share and reflect on the prevalence of poverty in our world that people in our society experience.

Prayer for a More Just Society

Creator God,
You have blessed this earth with abundance:
beautiful people and plentiful harvests;
yet out of your goodness we—humanity—
have destroyed what you have made holy.
Forgive us of our selfishness, pride and greed
and teach us to love ourselves and all others.
We pray fervently for those whose lives are
fettered by injustice, by hardship and by the
struggles of survival. We pray that their sto-
ries are heard and their lives are reclaimed.

In your name we pray,
Amen.

**“... What does the
Lord require of
you? To act justly
and to love mercy
and to walk humbly
with your God.”**

- Micah 6:8 (NIV)

**“People who took the survey just accepted that it is part of life to
have to go to food pantries and soup kitchens to survive. They know
that TANF will NOT cover all their expenses, and that they need to
be creative to make ends meet. Many of them sacrifice not eating,
eating less and not eating balanced meals to stretch whatever they
have. No one should have to go hungry in this country, but they do!”**

-Staff of a multi-service agency, Bronx, NY