



Catholic Charities Diocese of Evansville

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Diocese of Evansville, Poverty Summit, November 29, 2016

Summaries of panel discussion, Bishop Thompson's presentation, and individual table discussions

Panel Discussion

Sheila Gilbert, President of the National Council of the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul

- Much of what determines a person's success in life depends on resources present at birth.
- "People in poverty...have learned what the systems are, what the methods are, how to develop the relationships in order to be able to live from day to day." We need to listen, mentor, share hope.

Lloyd Winnecke, Mayor of the City of Evansville

- Discussed land bank, employment, public transportation, and the Promise Zone designation.
Emphasized that Evansville has a good community record of collaboration.

Matt Goebel, President, Hasgoe

- Poverty is a way of life and a state of mind; "In some cases, it has been 'taught' for generations. It's all some people know." Hasgoe has worked to empower its employees "who have been exposed to that kind of poverty...possibly we can change that state of mind."

Dr. James Schroeder, Pediatric Psychologist, St. Mary's Center for Children

- Identified where assistance could be beneficial in big ways, including combating substance abuse in pregnant and nursing women, better nutrition for infants, and social and emotional programs for preschool aged youngsters.

Dr. Sue Ellspermann, President, Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana

- Education is the "great equalizer" when it comes to lifting those in poverty out and up. There is no "cookie cutter" solution. Identified technology as a great challenge to those in poverty (access and capacity to use).

Bishop Thompson's Presentation

- April 26, 2013: Indiana Catholic leaders gathered to participate in the "Indiana Catholic Poverty Summit" at the University of Notre Dame. Participants included all five diocesan bishops of Indiana. Purpose was to help participants arrive at a common goal for reducing poverty in Indiana, including the development of concrete steps to take in our various Catholic institutions.
- Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015: Indiana Bishops publish Pastoral Letter, "Poverty at the Crossroads: The Church's Response to Poverty in Indiana."
- Key context and texts for our focus and future reflection: Catholic Social Teaching, Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium*, *Laudato Si'*, and *Amoris Laetitia*.

Individual Table Discussions

- *Why should you be concerned about poverty and how does it impact our community of southern Indiana?* In 12 counties of diocese, there are pockets with higher poverty, but poverty is everywhere. Serving others is an obligation; we need an action plan. Poverty: affects us all; leads to many other community problems; can make community less attractive to business.
- *What small step can you take as a business or community leader that will have the greatest impact on poverty in southern Indiana?* Be a resource, ask employees what they need and listen. Be aware of community resources. Engage with people in poverty and entire community.
- *What can we as the Church do to create real change on the issue of poverty in southern Indiana?* Mentor, make Church more welcoming, add diversity to decision-makers, engage youth, make poverty a priority of homilies and parish council discussions, emphasize social justice to young people, engage other religions.