President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

December 18, 2024

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned Catholic leaders and organizations, write to urge you to use your executive authority to provide people around the world with direly needed relief from their suffering in the face of poverty, hunger, and natural disaster, by supporting a new issuance of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Such a move will cap your legacy of global leadership.

As we approach the 2025 Jubilee, Pope Francis has made clear that our faith calls us to strive toward a more just global economic order, and to support people who are left behind by the inequities of the present order. There is much work to be done to fulfill this calling. Throughout the Year of Jubilee, we will join our brothers and sisters around the world in promoting a broad agenda of relief for poor and indebted nations.

But there is one action that you alone can take today, at no cost to the United States and without congressional approval, that would provide much-needed relief to indebted countries and the people that call them home: supporting a new issuance of SDRs.

As you are aware, SDRs are a reserve asset issued by the IMF to its member states in times of need. These SDRs can be used to repay debt, exchanged for hard currency to finance critical imports like food and medicine, or held onto to bolster foreign reserves and avert monetary crises.

In 2021, you supported a new issuance of $650 billion in SDRs at the IMF. We commend you for this decision, which in one fell swoop provided the developing world with more resources than an entire year of foreign aid from all countries. These resources were used to purchase and distribute vaccines, to care for the vulnerable, and to invest in health care for the poor. Hundreds of thousands of lives were likely saved.

The conditions facing the world today demand your support once more. Amidst an accelerating debt crisis, increasingly catastrophic climate change-driven natural disasters, and economic shocks exacerbated by international conflict, humanity is facing a perilous path ahead.

As fellow Catholics, we are called by our faith to do all that we can to alleviate the suffering of others. You have an opportunity to do so on a nearly unprecedented scale, impacting the lives of millions at no cost, with little more than the stroke of a pen. We urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Adrian Dominican Sisters
All-Africa Conference: Sister to Sister
Benedictines for Peace
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Daughters of Wisdom US JPIC Office
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa Peace and Justice Office
Franciscan Action Network
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate
Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network - Africa
Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America.
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Medical Mission Sisters, Justice Office
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Pax Christi USA
Roman Union Ursulines of the United States
Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ US Region JPIC Office
Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill
Sisters of Christian Charity
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team
Sisters of the Precious Blood
Union of Sisters of the Presentation of BVM - USA Province

CALIFORNIA
Sisters of the Presentation San Francisco, CA

ILLINOIS
Chicago Benedictines for Peace

INDIANA
Sisters of Providence of SMW

IOWA
Sisters of St. Francis of Clinton, Iowa

NEW YORK
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Albany
Sisters of Charity of New York, Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation

OHIO
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation

PENNSYLVANIA
Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Greensburg, PA
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia*
Benedictine Sisters of Erie

WASHINGTON
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation

WISCONSIN
Servants of Mary, Ladysmith, Wisconsin

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership

INDIVIDUALS
Sister Mary Richardine Blue, RSM, Arizona
Sister Helen Marie Burns, RSM, Michigan
Sister Catherine Darcy, RSM, New York
Sister Karen Donahue, RSM, Michigan
Sister Suzanne Gallagher, RSM, Pennsylvania
Sister Jan Ginzkey, OSB, Colorado
Sister Mary Ellen Howard, RSM, Michigan
Sister Diane Koorie, RSM, Oklahoma
Sister Maria Klosowski, RSM, Michigan
Elizabeth Lutz
Sister Margaret McBride, RSM, Arizona
Sister Maureen Mulcrone, RSM, Michigan
Jennifer Morin-Williamson, Coordinator, Sisters of the Precious Blood, Ohio

Sister Rose Therese Nolta, SSpS, Illinois
Sister Kate O'Donnell OSF, Pennsylvania
Sister Maria Orlandini OSF, Sister and Director of Advocacy, Franciscan Action Network
Sister Benvinda Pereira, RSM, Arizona
Fran Quigley, Indianapolis, Indiana
William Quigley, Emeritus Professor, Loyola Law, Louisiana
Gabriel Silvano
Jean Stokan, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sister Eileen P. Smith, RSM, New Jersey

*Added January 8, 2025