

# **Rural Life Subcommittee Report**

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The 2014 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C., reflected on Pope Francis' vision becoming "A Church that Is Poor for the Poor." Catholic Rural Life (the new name for the National Catholic Rural Life Conference) held its luncheon just before the main Gathering began. In keeping with the overall theme of the Gathering, the session examined how our Catholic faith informs our responses to poverty and how we can advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable in rural America.

## **Poverty Awareness**

In order to promote a deeper understanding of the Church's social teaching in this time of global economic crisis, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops released a series of messages on poverty and today's economy. Topics included Nutrition and Food Security, Fair Wages and Economic Security, Environmental Justice, and Immigration. Looking at the institutional and systemic causes of poverty in our country today, these messages are brief and in a format that easily lends itself to online distribution and parish bulletins. Go to the web site at [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org).

## **Farm Bill**

The Farm Bill passed, with concessions being made. Some of the Sustainable activities were cut; but, on a whole it is of benefit for most farmers. Last year, it never got done.

## **God's Presence in Daily Life**

*In the Summer's Heat, Shade Me.*

*In the Dry Fields, Water Me.*

*In the Harvest Work, Sustain Me.*

*In the Hard Decisions, Guide Me.*

*In the Harsh Winds, Protect Me.*

*In the Thundering Rain, Revive Me.*

*In the Lonely Hours, Be Present and Stand by Me.*

O Lord, I Pray. Amen.