

Bread or Stones Campaign

Would one of you hand his child a stone when he asks for a loaf... (Matthew 7: 9)

Dear Members and Friends of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference,

We share a common concern for our children, as the Gospel demands. Every child in Louisiana is a child of God and deserves our unwavering commitment to improving their life. By serving our children we are serving God most tenderly.

The Bread or Stones Campaign is a way for us, together in churches throughout Louisiana, to act on our moral obligation to improve our children's health, reduce their poverty, help them to stay in school and support their families.

Become a Bread or Stones Campaign Covenant Congregation and encourage every one of your church members to join.

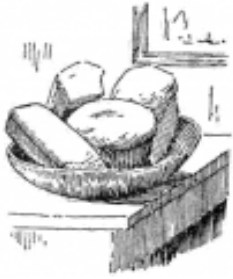
Jesus asks: *Would one of you hand his child a stone when he asks for a loaf?*

How will you answer?

Sincerely,

Fr. C. Dana Krutz
Executive Director

Robert D. Gorman
Chair, Bread or Stones Campaign



Bread or Stones Campaign

Would one of you hand his child a stone when he asks for a loaf... (Matthew 7: 9)

Our church is a Bread or Stones Campaign Covenant Congregation.

We commit to observing Bread or Stones Sundays on (or a Sunday nearest) the 3rd Sunday of October and the 1st Sunday of May. We commit to using the ideas that we have checked-off below to improve child-well being.

[These opportunities are only suggestions for your congregation to consider as a mission endeavor. Choose only the suggestions that work for your congregation or create your own new ideas. You may want to pursue some of these opportunities in your own congregation and/or support another church or organization that already is doing this in your community.]

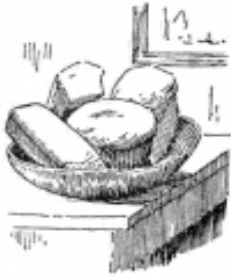
(Note: This can also be filled out on your computer. Please click in the form field boxes below to select them, or type as you wish in the 'other' entry lines.)

1. Service

- Pay for pre-natal vitamins for those who can't afford them
- Work with the Health Department to organize immunization days at church
- Sponsor a Safe Families for Children program
- Sponsor parenting education classes
- Offer Church after school and summer tutoring programs
- Organize business and professional mentors/tutors for high school students
- Sponsor a Back to School Supplies drive
- Start a Family Literacy Program with books for children
- Sign up Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) at church
- Start a Class A licensed day care
- Sponsor budget/money management classes for parents and teens
- Develop responsible father programs
- Create support services for 18 year olds "aging out" of the foster care system
- Make church available for AA/NA meetings
- Create community gardens
- Volunteer as a congregation with a denominational social service agency like Catholic Charities, UMCOR, Lutheran Social Services, Baptist Community Ministries, Episcopal Social Services, etc.
-

2. Education

- Distribute pre-natal and child health information on:
 - i. Smoking Cessation
 - ii. Dangers of drug and alcohol use
 - iii. Importance of pre-natal vitamins and health care information
 - iv. Importance of immunizations



Bread or Stones Campaign

Would one of you hand his child a stone when he asks for a loaf... (Matthew 7: 9)

Bread or Stones Congregational Commitment Options continued:

- Pass out applications for enrolling in or applying for:
 - i. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**
 - ii. **LaMOMs** no cost health insurance provided by Louisiana's Medicaid program for pregnant women
 - iii. Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (**LaCHIP**) no-cost health insurance provided by Louisiana's Medicaid program to uninsured children up to age 19
 - iv. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**, formerly Food Stamps) provides monthly benefits to help low-income families buy food
- Sponsor teen pregnancy prevention programs
- Educate church members about child poverty in Louisiana
- Distribute information and referral directories and resource lists in church
- Other:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

3. Citizenship

- Support increased state funding for
 - i. Child Protection Services
 - ii. Nurse/Family Partnership Program (NFP)
 - iii. Substance abuse prevention and recovery
 - iv. Child care tuition assistance (CCAP)
 - v. Louisiana Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Advocate with your school board for parenting education in schools
- Support Louisiana Medicaid expansion
- Support payday lending reform legislation
- Support legislation to create a Louisiana minimum wage
- Support a progressive Louisiana tax structure (e.g. the Stelly Plan)
- Join the Bread or Stones Legislative Advocacy Network
- Other:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|
- Other:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

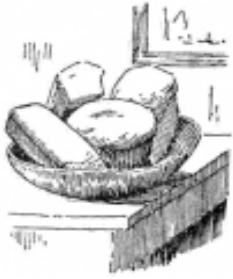
4. Community

- Organize a Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Network in your civil parish
- Develop a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program
- Join or form a local coalition of a group or groups with similar aims and goals
- Hold a Children's Sabbath
- Other:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|
- Other:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|
- Other:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|



Bread or Stones Campaign

Would one of you hand his child a stone when he asks for a loaf... (Matthew 7: 9)

Please include us in all correspondence and send us a Bread or Stones Campaign
Covenant Congregation certificate.

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Name of Church (Please Print) | Name of Pastor (Please Print) |
| Address of Church (Please Print) | Website Address (if available) |
| Name of Contact Person (Please Print) | Avg. Sunday Attendance |
| Email of Contact Person (Please Print) | Telephone of Contact Person |

Denominations Committed to the Bread or Stones Campaign

(Please click-in or mark a box to select your Denomination):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AME Church, 8th Episcopal District | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Home & Foreign Mission Baptist State Convention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AME Zion Church-S.W. Delta District | <input type="checkbox"/> Presbytery of South Louisiana, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptist Missionary & Educational Convention of LA | <input type="checkbox"/> Presbytery of the Pines Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church of God in Christ – LA First Jurisdiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Catholic Diocese of Alexandria |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Women United | <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Methodist Episcopal Church – 4th Episcopal District | <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Catholic Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Catholic Diocese of Lafayette |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – North Texas / North LA Synod | <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Catholic Diocese of Lake Charles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – TX/LA Gulf Coast Synod | <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Catholic Diocese of Shreveport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Episcopal Church - Diocese of Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Society of Friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Episcopal Church - Diocese of Western Louisiana | <input type="checkbox"/> United Church of Christ, South Central Conference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Missionary Baptist State Convention | <input type="checkbox"/> United Methodist Church |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other denomination: _____ |

Mail or e-mail a copy of this Covenant to the Louisiana Interchurch Conference at the address at the bottom of this page. Please let us know of other churches that we can contact. Thank you!

Louisiana Interchurch Conference Bread or Stones Campaign
527 North Blvd. 4th Floor Baton Rouge, LA 70802 or LaInterchurch@aol.com