

## February 2009

# Addressing “disparity”: *Different Faces of Poverty* with Sister Simone Campbell, SSS

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## ‘Disparity,’ today’s real poverty issue

Seventeen congregations and agencies sponsor ‘Different Faces of Poverty’ symposium at Mount St. Mary’s.

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Staff Writer

**I** think we have to put aside talking about poverty — which sounds kind of shocking, right? Sister of Social Service Simone Campbell said during her keynote address at The Different Faces of Poverty symposium Feb. 14 at Mount Saint Mary’s College.

“I think what we need to talk about is ‘disparity,’” continued the executive director of NETWORK, the national Catholic social justice lobby. “Because the real issue is: Do we have a culture of individualism ‘getting as much as I can,’ or is our culture about sharing what we have and making sure that everyone has enough?”

“So I believe that by talking about disparity — income disparity, wealth disparity, opportunity disparity — then we can indicate it’s not about ‘them’ out there, but it’s about ‘us’ together. Disparity means I’m some place in this equation; I’m not left out of it.”

The 63-year-old attorney, who grew up in Long Beach and graduated from St. Anthony High School, said she was shocked to hear recently at congressional hearings that in 2007 the average income of Fortune 500 company CEOs was \$10.5 million, or 344 times the average pay of U.S. workers. And she was appalled to learn that the top 50



Sister Simone Campbell was the keynote at the *Different Faces of Poverty* symposium hosted at Mount Saint Mary’s College on February 14. She urged all to follow Pope Benedict XVI’s message from his New Year’s address asking people to address poverty as the way to create world peace. Sister Simone commented, **“There’s nothing like an economic crisis to get our attention. So I think this is a great opportunity for us, because we know we are**

**in this together. And it can be a moment of change.”** Seventeen religious congregations and agencies — including the Los Angeles Archdiocese’s Office of Justice and Peace— sponsored the daylong Different Faces of Poverty conference. Read the full article on our website at [www.sistersofsocialservice.com](http://www.sistersofsocialservice.com) under “News”.

## January 2009

### Diamond In Our Midst--Sister Marianna Halsmer, SSS

Sister Marianna Halsmer has many years of experience with the St. Joseph Society of the Sacred Heart and has been volunteering at St. Brigid’s, a Josephite church in South Central Los Angeles, for the past nine years. At St. Brigid’s, Sister Marianna attends weekly scripture classes, participates in community outreach with the Neighbor to Neighbor program, and serves on the board of the Ministry Through Prayer group — a group which engages homebound parishioners, allowing them to contribute to important prayer ministries from home. For her contributions to St. Brigid’s, Sister Marianna was recently honored as a **“Diamond In Our Midst”** — a recognition given to the senior members of the parish who have played valuable roles in the church community.

