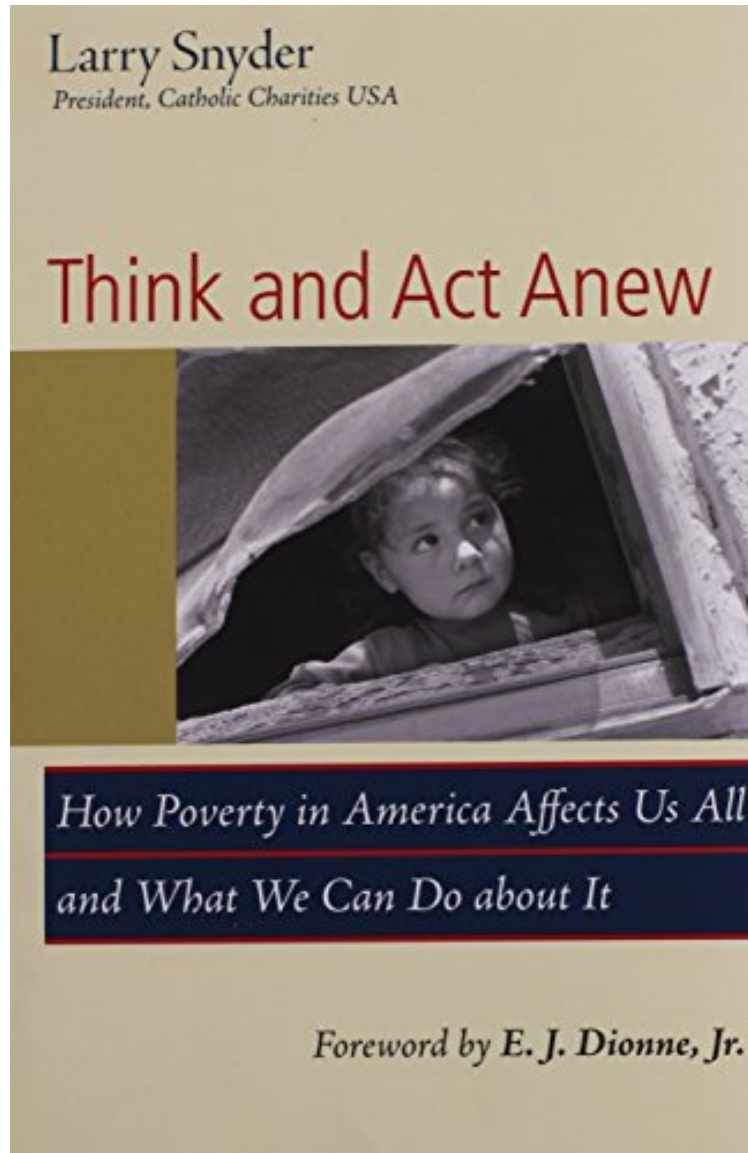


(Mobile pdf) Think and Act Anew: How Poverty in America Affects Us All and What We Can Do about It

# Think and Act Anew: How Poverty in America Affects Us All and What We Can Do about It

Larry Snyder

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Larry Snyder : Think and Act Anew: How Poverty in America Affects Us All and What We Can Do about It before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Think and Act Anew: How Poverty in America Affects Us All and What We Can Do about It:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good sourceBy tcmVery good points are made concerning solutions

to poverty in America. We can do things to soften the effect of poverty.

A frank discussion of poverty in the US--its causes and potential solutions. *Think and Act Anew* describes the near economic collapse of the American economy and its effects on people, providing the United States with an opportunity to think and act anew in dealing with the thousands-of-years-old problem of entrenched poverty. The faces of the poor are described through stories of those who have sought Catholic Charities services. Fr. Snyder draws on Catholic social teaching and the papal encyclicals *Caritas in Veritate*, *Deus Caritas Est*, and *Populorum Progressio* that firmly establish the dignity of the human being and the connection between charity and justice as the core principals around which our decisions as a society must be made. He then challenges government, business, and individuals to examine their roles, accountability, and potential to change our nation's course. Included also ideas and examples of innovative programs that are making a difference in the lives of people and their communities. Finally, Fr. Snyder calls on people of faith and all Americans to think and act anew to rethink our approach to our economic and social safety nets and to envision innovative approaches to remove the causes of poverty in America. Each chapter will comprise a series of stories, foundational passage(s) from scripture, identification of pertinent principles of social teaching, passage(s) from pertinent encyclicals, and their application to today's situation and moral challenges.

If you give a man a fish you feed him for a day, goes the old saying, but if you teach him to fish you feed him for a lifetime. . . . For his reader [Fr. Larry Snyder's book] is a fishing pole of information and action. What began as a blog to ensure a broad discussion on human development became a book that explores, in the words of Pope Benedict XVI's 2009 encyclical, *love in truth*. Snyder begins by explaining the pope's message in *Veritas in caritate*, quoting it throughout the remainder of his book. He then takes us on a journey through structural injustice by engaging in topics such as *Defining Poverty*, *How We Live in Relationship to Each Other*, and *The New Poor*, whom he describes as people we know, our neighbors, or family, or friends, people who never had to ask for help before. He challenges an economic model that puts the profit of shareholders over the sustainability of employees' lives. Snyder then hands us our fishing poles as he explains a need to change our measure of poverty from a body of statistics to the human person. He suggests using a new American Human Development Index that includes health, education, and income to promote a more informed, reasoned debate using objective facts and comparisons. He also highlights model programs such as *Step Up Silicon Valley*, which aims to cut poverty by increasing awareness, building partnerships, shaping public policy, increasing private and public funding, and integrating services to better meet the needs of the poor. Snyder sends us out to fish with an appendix full of information to help his reader be the change we wish to see in the world. -- *U.S. Catholic*, March 2011

In a brief book that deals in bitter truths as well as hope, Snyder provides a five-point list of *Someone is poor if ...*; adds Maimonides' eight levels of giving; and includes a *Not All Poor People Are Equal* catalog. Equally encouraging are the snapshots of innovative programs from Silicon Valley, where 54 percent of eligible residents don't apply for food stamps; to Harlem Children's Zone, one of the most successful antipoverty programs in the country; to the Earthworks Urban Farm in Detroit. The basic question before us, writes Snyder, is what kind of society we want to be. But our obligation does not stop there. As people of faith we will not get it right until we acknowledge that everyone is our sister and brother -- even those whose appearance or behavior is unappealing to us. At this point in the book, which has already chided Wall Street, excerpted papal teaching, and debated the common good and free markets, Snyder is astonishingly close to its end. It is a tightly packed volume that runs through its teaching and exhorting course in only 118 pages. For Catholics and others, *Think and Act Anew* is a social justice jewel case containing many gems, not least E.J. Dionne's foreword saying this: A Baptist friend of mine who is a divinity professor tells me that one of her favorite classes every year involves introducing her mostly Protestant students to Catholic social teaching. Snyder himself provides this telling endnote: As we will it, so shall the future be -- provided we pick up the peeler and prepare the spuds, sign the petitions, get involved in efforts for low-income housing, protest injustice and work for systemic change as if success were immaterial and action for others all-important. -- Arthur Jones - *National Catholic Reporter*

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About the Author  
Rev. Larry Snyder is president of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) and oversees Catholic Charities USA's work to reduce poverty in America. He is a member of the President's Council of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and in 2008 and 2009, The Nonprofit Times recognized Father Snyder in its Power and Influence Top 50 for his influence in the nonprofit sector. In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI named him to the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, which oversees the Church's charitable activities around the world. He is also a member of the board of the Catholic Health Association and the Independent Sector, a member of the Domestic Policy Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and a trustee of the America's Promise Alliance. He is a weekend associate at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Alexandria, VA.