

“Too many in our Church and nation do not know the world of agriculture... We hope that Catholics throughout our country, in urban, suburban, and rural areas, will join in the effort to promote a food and agricultural system more focused on overcoming hunger, providing a decent living for farmers and farmworkers, and protecting the earth and its resources.”

For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food: Catholic Reflections on Food, Farmers and Farmworkers, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

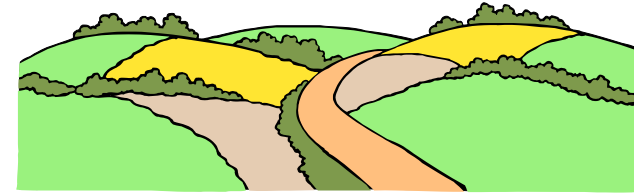


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Catholic Social Action



Take the
Rural Plunge!

**An immersion experience in the
local, rural community**

**Sponsored by:
Catholic Rural Life Conferences**

Rural Plunge

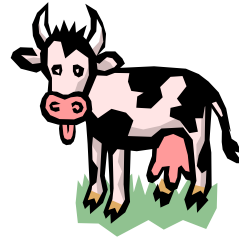
The Catholic Rural Life Conference is sponsoring day-long or overnight “Rural Plunge” experiences for archdiocesan staff, parishioners and students.

A Rural Plunge is an immersion experience that can help you discover and participate in the local, rural community. The plunge will offer you a unique opportunity to enrich your faith while becoming better informed about the rural parts of the archdiocese.

The plunge is meant to expose participants to the issues faced by rural parishes and communities, encourage social analyses, apply Catholic social teaching, foster new relationships, and celebrate rural identity.

☞ Have you ever milked a cow?

☞ Does it seem like food grows on grocery store shelves?



☞ Would a group from your faith community like to know the REAL story? Then...

Take the
Rural Plunge!!

A Rural Plunge can include:

- Day-long or overnight experience
- Tour of family farms
- Hands-on work (feeding livestock, walking the fields, etc.)
- Catholic Social Teaching related to rural issues
- Lots of good stories

Did you know:

- ◆ More than 7 million acres of Ohio farmland has vanished since 1950! That's 30% of the state's farmland!
- ◆ Smaller farms have less to say these days about the food that gets to your table:
Today, the four largest beef firms process 81% of all the cattle. The four largest wheat processors have 61% of the market and the four largest soybean processors have 80% of the market. *
- ◆ Farming is one of the most dangerous occupations in the U.S. The 2002 occupational fatality rate in agriculture was 22.7 per 100,000 people employed, compared to 12.2 in construction and 23.5 in mining.*
- ◆ We can begin to address these issues by becoming more informed!



*Information compiled by U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops