

# Poverty in the diocese

DC's empty under belly

# How many are poor in our diocese?

- Almost 300,000 of the 2.8 million people in the Washington episcopal diocese live below the US national poverty level
- The average poverty rate is 10.3 percent across the District of Columbia, St Mary's, Prince George's, Charles County and Montgomery County

# But poverty in DC is much higher than the average

- The highest rate is in DC at 18.6%
- Rates in the suburbs are lower – Prince George's (9.4%), St Mary's (7.2%), Charles (7%) and Montgomery (6/7%)

# But it's worse than that...

- The Census Bureau estimates that DC's high housing costs mean that the actual poverty rate is around 23%
- DC residents need an annual income of \$33,000 - \$10,000 a year above the national poverty level of \$23,000 to escape being poor
- High housing costs in the suburbs also raise poverty rates, e.g. in Maryland from 10% to 13%

# DC among the nation's poorest

- DC has the seventh highest proportion of poor in the US
- All the rest are in the South – Georgia (19%), Arkansas (19.7%), Louisiana (19.8%), New Mexico (21.9%) and Mississippi (24%).
- But housing costs are lower in these states, so – allowing for housing costs - DC may have the highest proportion of poor in the country.

# Poverty varies widely in DC

- Poverty increased sharply in parts of DC after the financial crisis.
- In Wards 7 and 8 (Anacostia) it rose from 27% in 2007 to almost 34% in 2012.
- Even in the relatively wealthy North-West, it rose from 7% to 9%.
- But in the downtown core, it fell from 22% to 12%

# DC is the hungriest city in the country

- Almost 22% of DC's population received food stamps in December 2014 – the highest proportion in the country.
- This means that 146,000 people in the city were unable to feed themselves.

# Incomes are unequal

- Median household incomes vary from \$98,000 a year in Montgomery County to \$66,000 in DC.
- But incomes of the top 1% in DC at \$688,000 are higher than in any US state. (Connecticut is closest at \$642,000.) That's about 30 times the poverty rate
- DC is more unequal than any US state with a Gini coefficient of 0.53. Maryland, however, is the 18<sup>th</sup> most equal state.