

# **The Lost Face of Poor Children in Larger Social Systems**

***Pamela Couture***

In the United States ministries that are directed at poor children and their families intersect well with direct family issues: for example, in transitions in 'welfare reform', support for language study for immigrant families, and caring for children whose families are imprisoned. Ministries that are conducted from congregations and judicatories are far less likely to see the 'face of children' in debates about larger social systems, such as debates over human rights, environmental degradation, economic globalization, and war as a means for resolving conflict. Building on work in my forthcoming book *Child Poverty: Love, Justice and Social Responsibility* (Chalice Press, 2007), and drawing on the tradition of 'apostolic spirituality', I will demonstrate why we must also 'see' the face of children in larger social systems.