

Faith Leaders Urge Lawmakers Not to Forsake the Poor

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SAN DIEGO — Dozens of San Diegans fasted and held a prayer vigil today, to call attention to the hardship state budget cuts will have on the poor. Faith leaders are asking state lawmakers to come up with a kinder budget.

"Help us to heal those who are broken in body and spirit."

At the Vista Community Clinic, leaders from a variety of faiths offered prayers to the poor.

Speakers urged lawmakers to spare programs that serve the poor from deep cuts.

Governor Schwarzenegger says the state has no alternative. Sister Justine Church from El Cajon's Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church doesn't believe that.

"As a Catholic and a sister, I have an obligation to my God to believe that there is hope, and that the legislators and the governor will help the people that need to be helped," Church says.

The governor wants to eliminate a number of social service programs. Democrats are resisting those cuts.