

Social Justice

*The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth,
Third Edition*

Chapter 24

Social Justice

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.

A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him.

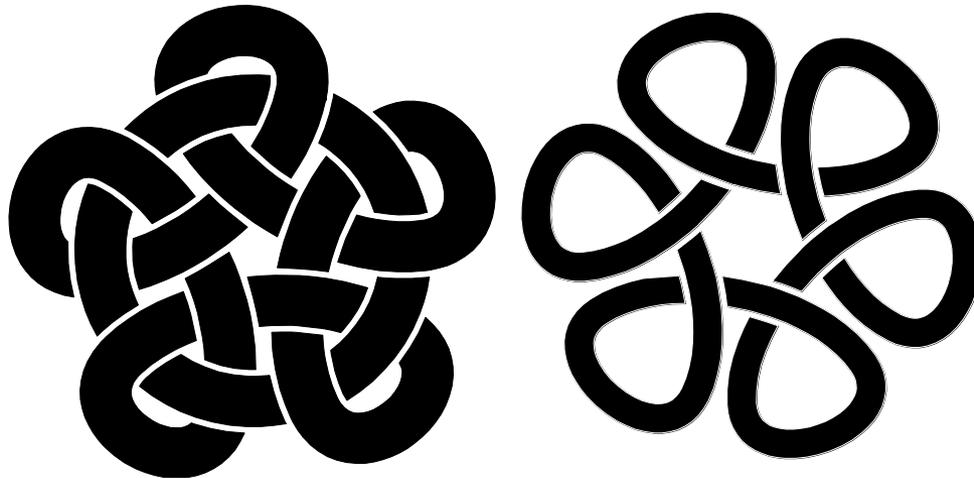
The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, ‘Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.’

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?”

He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Social Justice

- We are dependent on those around us.
- We have an effect on others.
- We will be held accountable for the things we do and the things we fail to do.



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Social Justice

The moral principles God calls society to follow to ensure that essential human needs are met and that essential human rights are protected for all people.

Isaiah 58: 6-7

6 Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking off every yoke?

7 Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own flesh?



The Common Good

- It is achieved when conditions in society allow all people to reach their human fulfillment.
- It is not what is best for only our community or the country we live in.



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Responsibility of Political Authority

- Political authority has an important role: to defend and promote the common good.
- Policy makers must create laws that ensure people's freedom to live moral lives.
- Policy makers should ensure that everyone can access the resources needed for a truly human life.
- [Catechism Of the Catholic Church](#) on basic Human Rights



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Human Dignity



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- God calls us to see that every single human being has value.
- The equality of people flows from the human dignity we all share.
- Sinful inequalities and a lack of human rights are grave matters we are responsible for solving.

Human Solidarity



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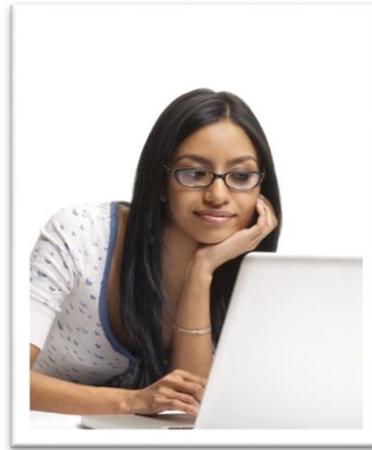
- Thinking in terms of friendship and charity toward our brothers and sisters in society.
- When one suffers, all suffer.
- The virtue of solidarity gives us motivation to act for justice.

Working for Justice

- Pray
- Study
- Join with others



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The Judgment of the Nations (Matt: 25:31-46)

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?'

He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.



Catholic SOCIAL JUSTICE

