

Catholic Social Teaching with Students Grades 3-5

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- Children work to develop good listening habits such as raising hands, listening while others are speaking and waiting their turn.
- Children act out historical situations taking various sides.
- Students role-play conflicts that might occur at recess and brainstorm that solve the conflict without loss of dignity.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

- Make job charts with school tasks on one side and home tasks on the other and use as a self-check.
- Students create a family shield and explain what makes their family unique.
- Students share reading book buddies with a younger students in the school.

Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person

- Set up an “ I’m sorry” box in the room which allows children to anonymously leave a note expressing their regret for treating another unfairly.
- Students read literature in which human rights are addressed and discuss their reactions.
- Children keep a book of rights, which lists classroom, community, and world rights.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- Children learn to distinguish between “ I want” and “ I need” by brainstorming certain situations in their lives.
- Children contribute non-perishables to community food pantry.
- Students communicate with needy schools and share experiences by establishing pen pals.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- Teaching students to see school as their job for the present. They are encouraged to take care of supplies, keep desks neat and come prepared for class.
- Students study occupations that serve the common good: nurses, firefighters, police officers, waiter and janitor.
- Students chart their own work day: chores, homework & sports and evaluate how this builds respect for work

Solidarity of the Human Family

- Children illustrate peace posters showing how we can help others.
- Students research articles on people who are peacemakers.
- Students adopt a mission or missionary and write letters of support.

Care for God’s Creation

- Bless the animals on the Feast of St. Francis (October 4)
- Learn how to recycle water, paper, and cans.
- Have students prepare posters showing effects of water pollution.