

JUSTICE AND PEACE

“Do unto others”

*“I WAS A STRANGER AND
YOU WELCOMED ME.”*

Matthew 25:35

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look similar to this: 59 Asians; 17 Europeans; 14 from the Western Hemisphere; 9 Africans; 52 would be female; 48 would be male; 70 would be non-white; 30 would be white; 70 would be non-Christian; 28 would be Christian; 30 would be Muslim:

- 89 would be heterosexual; 11 would be homosexual; 6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States.; 80 would live in substandard housing; 70 would be unable to read; 50 would suffer from malnutrition; 1 adult has HIV/AIDS; 1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth; 1 would have a university education; 7 would have secondary education, 1 would own a computer:

The village has \$3,000,000 on expenditures. \$290,000 is spent on weapons and war, \$109,000 is spent on education and \$132,000 on health care.

30 people live on \$1.00 per day.

47 live on \$2.00 per day.

The rest live in luxury.

- When one considers our world from such an incredibly compressed perspective, the need for both tolerance and understanding becomes glaringly apparent.



"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 72.5% of this world.

"If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

"And if you used your personal computer today, you are part of the 4% in the world who has that opportunity.

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day.

"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation .. you are ahead of 300 million people in the world. "If you can attend a prayer meeting without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world.

If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair."

This Topic

- Recognise that Catholic concern of justice and peace is founded in respect for human persons created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ.
- Relate Catholic positions on issues of peace and justice with relevant Scripture, traditional moral principles and the body of Social teaching found in Church documents.
- Discuss the connections between social action on issues of justice and peace and the call to preach the Gospel and to mission.

What is Justice

- **Justice** is the ideal, morally correct state of things and persons. For many, justice is overwhelmingly important: "Justice is the first virtue of social institutions, as truth is of systems of thought. For many, it has not been achieved: "We do not live in a just world."
- This problem of uncertainty has inspired philosophical reflection about justice, as about other topics. What exactly justice is, and what it demands of individuals and societies, are among the oldest and most contested of philosophical questions. For example, the proper distribution of wealth in society — should it be equal? according to status? — has been fiercely debated for at least the last 2,500 years.

The Challenge

- One of the great challenges for Christians is as old as our faith, but it takes on special urgency today as we approach the Third Christian Millennium. How do we connect worship on Sunday to work on Monday? How is the Gospel proclaimed not only in the pulpits of our parishes, but also in the everyday lives of Catholic people?

- How does the Church gathered on the Sabbath act as the People of God every day of the week? How can we best carry the values of our faith into family life in the market place and the public square? How do we love our neighbour, pursue peace and seek justice in everyday choices and commitments?

Catholics are called by God to protect human life, to promote human dignity, to defend the poor and to seek the common good. This social mission of the Church belongs to all of us. It is an essential part of what it is to be a believer.

This social mission is advanced in many ways by the prophetic teaching of our Holy Father; by the efforts of our bishops' Conference; and by many structures of charity and justice within our community of faith.

KEY POINTS

Homelessness

Poverty

Racism

Refugees

Child Labour

*Christ has no body but yours;
yours are the only hands with
which He can do His work,
yours are the only feet with which
He can go about the world,
yours are the only eyes through
which*

*His compassion can shine forth
upon a troubled world.*

*Christ has no body now on earth
but yours.*