



## FAITH SHARING - PRAYER

WORKSHOP  
HANDOUT  
RESOURCE



For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out at about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace and he said to them: "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.

When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around and he said to them: "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager: "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first."

When those hired at five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought that they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.

And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying: "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them: "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first; and the first will be last.

Matthew 20:1-16

## REFLECTION

### QUESTIONS

- 1 In what instance in my life have I personally experienced God's way not being my way?
- 1 What is the challenge in this gospel reading for me? How do I respond to it?



Dear Lord

Open our hearts to the needs of our world. Give us the courage to reach out beyond our comfortable lives and look into the suffering faces of your people. We are grateful for the abundance of blessings and insights you have given us. Strengthen us to act as your instruments of caring in a world where injustice and disregard for the sacred human dignity of every person is often the rule. Create in us hearts ready for your vineyard, and hands able to work for you. Send your Spirit into our lives to make us loving women and men so your kingdom will be established on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.

# LOVE IN ACTION



## CARITAS GUIDELINES

WORKSHOP  
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“ The Church’s social thought is primarily positive: it offers proposals, it works for change and in this sense it constantly points to the hope born of the loving heart of Jesus Christ.”

Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel*, 183



DIGNITY



COMMUNITY AND  
PARTICIPATION



CREATION



SOLIDARITY  
AND PEACE



OPTION FOR  
THE POOR



DIGNITY OF  
WORKERS

## CARITAS GUIDELINES

- Each individual chooses one principle of Catholic social teaching.
- In twos or threes brainstorm issues of concern in society/world that contradict each principle chosen by your group.
- Agree together on three issues for each principle chosen and write them down.



### THE DIGNITY AND EQUALITY OF EACH HUMAN PERSON

Every human being is seen as equal. They're lovingly and beautifully made in God's image and likeness. The other principles flow from this.

### THE CALL TO PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY

Human beings exist in relation to one another. We're called to live with others, aware of others, communicating, sharing, enjoying moments of joy and being there together in times of sadness. All of us are called to participate, to join in, to work alongside others for the common good of all.

### A PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR

Caring for those living in poverty, both in our local neighbourhoods and throughout the world, is a fundamental duty of us all. However, the preferential option for the poor goes further than this. In the Gospels, time and again, Jesus shows a preferential option for the poor – putting them first, giving them special importance, thinking of their needs and enabling them to have their rightful place in the world. It is not enough simply to think of those living in poverty and try to help them. The voice of people living in poverty needs to be heard. We must enable them to be a full part of the decision making process. We must enable those living in poverty to play a full, active role in society.

### THE DIGNITY AND RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The right to work, to have a job, to earn money and so support your family are all connected to the dignity of each individual. Catholic social teaching affirms that human beings are not merely a commodity, a tool as part of a process to make things. Human beings are greater than any thing. They deserve a fair wage and proper working conditions.

### SOLIDARITY AMONG PEOPLES AND THE PROMOTION OF PEACE

We seek the good of one another, aware of our dependence on one another. Pope Saint John Paul II said, "[Solidarity] is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good." (The social concern of the Church, 38.) Peace flows from this. We are called to live honestly with one another, working together in love for the good of all. This is what will lead to true peace.

### CARE FOR CREATION

God created the earth. Often, the way we treat creation leads to the harm both of it, and of those living on it. Our destruction of the earth for quick gain has repercussions for animals, for ourselves now, our eco systems and the generations that will come after us. We need to treat the earth with respect.

# LOVE IN ACTION



## THE TWO FEET OF LOVE IN ACTION

WORKSHOP  
HANDOUT  
RESOURCE

“The Church must always be known for its closeness to the peoples of this earth in their struggle for dignity and freedom”

Pope Francis, *Let Us Dream*

### ACTION

- Work in small groups.
- Each person in the group chooses one issue from the ‘Caritas Guidelines’ exercise.
- Brainstorm at least one ‘justice’ action and one ‘charity’ action in response to your chosen issue(s). To help you – read through the examples in the ‘two feet of love in action’ below.

“The Conscience is called by this social teaching to recognize and fulfill the obligations of **Justice** and **Charity**”

*Compendium of the social doctrine of the Church, no.83*

- We step with the Social Justice foot when:
  - We work to address the root causes of problems facing our communities, advocating for just public policies helping to change the social structures that cause suffering and injustice.
  - We work for peace and justice and work for long-term change.
  - We support the efforts of others to transform their communities.

- We step with the Charitable Works foot when we work to aid or assist others to meet their immediate, short-term needs.
- Examples include engaging in direct service or providing food, clothing, shelter, or monetary assistance to help those in need.



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“**Social Justice**... concerns the social, political and economic aspects and above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions.”

*Compendium no.201*

“To [those who lack what they need to live a dignified life] are proclaimed glad tidings that God loves them... and comes to visit them through the **charitable works** that the disciples of Christ do in his name... As we can read in Matthew 25, we shall all be judged on this.”

Pope Francis, *Address to pastoral convention*