

Living the Gospel: Engaging Small Communities in Social Action

Links and Resources

Scripture

(Scripture references are from *New Revised Standard Version Bible, Catholic Edition*, [Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, © 1993] and are used by permission. All rights reserved.)

Micah 4:1–5	God will restore all nations.
Luke 4:18–19	The Spirit anoints Jesus for ministry and justice.
Luke 10:29–37	The Samaritan is a model of charity and justice.
Matthew 5:3–10, 13–16	Live the beatitudes. Be salt and light.
Matthew 25:31–45	Love for God translates into love of those in need.

Conciliar Documents

Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen gentium)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html

2:	God's plan and the Church
4–5:	The Spirit dwells in the Church
7:	Building the Body of Christ
12:	Living witness of the people of God
30–33:	Apostolate of the laity
40–41:	Call to holiness

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et spes)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_cons_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

27, 29, 32:	Importance of our communal nature
40–44:	Bringing faith into the world

Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People (Apostolicam actuositatem)

http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651118_apostolicam-actuositatem_en.html

2–4:	Vocation flows from Trinity and sacraments
6–7:	Announcing the gospel and transforming the world
10:	Apostolate in the parish
18:	Mission in small groups
29–30:	Importance of formation for ministry

Papal Documents

Address of Pope John Paul II to the General Assembly of the United Nations, October 1995.
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/1996/documents/hf_jpii_spe_05101995_address-to-uno_en.html
Speaks about the need for international structures to guarantee justice between nations.

The Church in America (Ecclesia in America) (January 1999), John Paul II
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_22011999_ecclesia-in-america_en.html
This document is addressed to the Church in North, Central, and South America. Section 41 speaks directly to the renewal of parishes and the importance of small communities.

The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People (Christifideles laici) (December 30, 1988), John Paul II
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_30121988_christifideles-laici_en.html
Discusses the vocation and the mission of the lay faithful in the Church and in the world. Presents an awareness of the baptismal call to ministry that makes the Church both sign and instrument of God's presence. We are the Body of Christ, called to sanctify the world from within.

Mission of the Redeemer (Redemptoris missio) (December 7, 1990), John Paul II
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_07121990_redemptoris-missio_en.html
A thorough explanation of how we share in the mission of Jesus and bring about the reign of God. Attention is given to the way we relate to the cultures and needs of the world.

On Evangelization in the Modern World (Evangelii nuntiandi) (December 8, 1975), Paul VI
<http://listserv.american.edu/catholic/church/papal/paul.vi/p6evang.txt>
The Church exists to continue Christ's mission of evangelization. As members of the Church, we are called to be evangelizers in everyday life. This is the definitive document on evangelization and its importance to the Church. It has many quotable passages.

On Human Work (Laborem exercens) (September 14, 1981), John Paul II
www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_14091981_laborem-exercens_en.html
Develops and refines the Church's teaching on property, capitalism, and Marxism.

On Social Concern (Sollicitudo rei socialis), (December 30, 1987), John Paul II
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30121987_sollicitudo-rei-socialis_en.html
Addresses the economic problems of the modern world and points out the duty of both nations and individuals to work for a just world society.

On the Gospel of Life (Evangelium vitae) (March 25, 1995), John Paul II
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae_en.html
The most fundamental right of all is the right to life. This document speaks about the sources and implications of that right.

On the 100th Anniversary of Rerum Novarum (Centesimus annus) (May 1, 1991), John Paul II
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_01051991_centesimus-annus_en.html
Deals with the significance of private property and the right of each human being to an appropriate share of the world's goods.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/ccc_toc.htm

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| #1716–29 | beatitudes
http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s1c1a2.htm#l |
| #1878–96 | communal nature and conversion
http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s1c2a1.htm#l |
| #1897–1927 | social life and common good
http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s1c2a2.htm#l |
| #1928–48 | social justice
http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s1c2a3.htm |

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Documents

Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium (November 1995). www.usccb.org/laity/calleden.htm

An anniversary booklet with a vision of lay ministry and a description of the calls to holiness, to community, to mission, and to Christian maturity.

A Catholic Call to Justice: An Activity Book for Raising Awareness of Social Justice Issues (November 1998). Readable booklet with lesson plans for ages 14–22.

Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish (1993).

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/saltandlight.htm>

These reflections bring together the principles of the bishops' social teaching along with local pastoral experience in an overall orientation and general framework for parish social ministry.

Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice (November 1999).

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/everyday.htm>

A pastoral reflection on lay discipleship that includes a concern for social justice.

Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium (September 1999).

<http://www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/citizenship.htm>

Promotes a greater respect for the dignity of human life, with a growing commitment to justice and peace. Presents the seven themes of Catholic social teaching and moral priorities for public life.

Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States

(November 1992). To order: <http://www.usccb.org/opps/evangelization.htm>

The National Conference of U.S. Catholic Bishops proposes three goals for evangelization: inspiration to share our faith in Jesus Christ, invitation to others to hear and respond to Christ's message of salvation, and transformation of society by the saving power of Christ through action for justice and mercy.

In All Things Charity: A Pastoral Challenge for the New Millennium (1999).

<http://www.usccb.org/cchd/charity.htm#intro>

Speaks about biblical justice, the scope of human needs, and the "service of charity" that is meant to engage all the baptized.

Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States

(November 1999). <http://www.usccb.org/education/ourhearts.htm>

The U.S. Catholic bishops call for a renewed commitment to adult faith formation, positioning it at the heart of catechetical vision and practice.

Sharing the Tradition and Shaping the Future: A Faith Sharing Experience for Christian Communities (2001).

This booklet, prepared by The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, is intended to enable adults to enter into and grow in awareness of the social justice tradition of the Catholic Church. This is done through weekly segments that highlight the seven themes chosen by the U.S. Catholic bishops. Each session begins with a gospel reading, followed by reflection, focus questions for group discussion, and suggested actions.

Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions (June 1999).

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/contents.htm>

The Church's social teaching is a primary part of Catholic identity and mission. Searches for ways to bring this social teaching into Catholic education and spiritual formation.

Excerpts from *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*—5.5-by-8.5-inch card containing a summary of the seven themes in the longer document. Item No. 5-315.

RENEW International Resources

Kleissler, Thomas A., Margo A. LeBert, and Mary C. McGuinness. *Small Christian Communities: A Vision of Hope for the 21st Century*, revised and updated. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997.

To order: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/voh.html>

Chapter 15: Concrete Approaches to Mission (pp. 246–56). Offers suggestions for a basic approach to social justice.

IMPACT Series of faith-sharing booklets that cover specific social justice topics. Each booklet includes material for about six sessions. Some of the *IMPACT* titles are:

Embracing Life by Michael T. Mannion, *Beyond Black & White* by Danny Duncan Collum, *Making Media Work for You* by June Dwyer Castano, *The World of Work* by Edmund Flood, OSB, *Civic Responsibility: What's It All About?* by Mary Ann Jeselson and Steve Jeselson, *Human and World Issues* by Mary C. McGuinness and Thomas A. Kleissler, *Hunger in God's World* by Art Simon, and *Discipleship of Nonviolence* by Betsy Clark, SSJ. (To order individually: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/faithshare.html>, to order a sampling of topics: <http://www.renewintl.org/Resources/Pages/impspec.html>)

For more information contact RENEW International, 1232 George Street, Plainfield, NJ 07062-1717; phone: 908-769-5400; fax: 908-769-5660; orders only 888-433-3221; Web sites: www.renewintl.org, www.ParishLife.com; e-mail: Resources@renewintl.org

Books

Blum, Susan W. Ed.D. *Text, Study Guide, and Implementation Process for Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States*. South Holland, IL: National Council of Catholic Evangelization, 1993. Prepared in consultation with Bishops' Committee on Evangelization as one method of implementing *Go and Make Disciples*. Toward the end of their document, the bishops invite all U.S. Catholics to use this NCCE resource. Web site for NCCE: www.catholic-evangelization.org

Boyack, Kenneth, ed. *The New Catholic Evangelization*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1992. Out of print. Contact used books services of www.amazon.com Articles on what new Catholic evangelization is and how we can get started doing it.

- Durbin, Mary Ellen, Cathy Katoski, OSF, Carol Stefan-Simler, and Susan R. Stolfa. *The Empowerment Process*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1994. Step-by-step handbook for creating social ministry in the parish.
- Gelpi, Donald L. *The Conversion Experience*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 1998. Treats acts of social justice as evidence of “socio-political conversion.” The interplay between different kinds of conversion is important.
- Gerding, Susan Blum, Ed.D. and Frank DeSiano, CSP. *Lay Ministers, Lay Disciples: Evangelizing Power in the Parish*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1999. A practical introduction to several ministries as a way to exercise and express faith in Christ.
- Hater, Robert J. *Catholic Evangelization: The Heart of Ministry*. Dubuque, Iowa: Harcourt Religion Publishers, 2001. This book presents a clear explanation of the gospel message and ideas about how to share this message with those around us.
- Kammer, SJ, Fred. *Salted with Fire*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1995. A primer for how to survive, succeed, and even flourish in the ministry of social justice and peace.
- Marucci, Msgr. Carl J. *Serving the Human Family*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 1998. Extensive collection of statements by Pope John Paul II and the Holy See Delegation at major United Nations meetings.
- Massaro, SJ, Thomas J. *Catholic Social Teaching in Action (Come and See)*. Sheed and Ward, 2000. Readable introduction to major principles of the Church’s teaching. Gives practical examples and illustrations related to parish life.
- Wallis, Jim. *The Soul of Politics: Beyond “Religious Right” and “Secular Left.”* New York: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1995. Considers Old Testament Proverbs as well as ways to cooperate in the solution of social problems.
- Young, Shannon. *We Are Home*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1993. Describes the earth as a “conglomerate of everyday miracles,” and humans as fellow travelers with all created things. Practical and inspiring spirituality for ecological ministry.

Web Site Links

Catholic social teaching:

<http://www.justpeace.org/>

“Access to Catholic Social Teaching” comprehensive list of links

<http://www.daughtersofstpaul.com/links/social.html>

Pauline Books and Media lists Web sites concerned with social justice.

<http://www.catholic-pages.com/dir/documents.asp>

User-friendly collection of links to the full texts of official Catholic documents

Social action:

<http://www.usccb.org/cchd/index.htm>

Catholic Campaign for Human Development is an antipoverty program established in 1969 by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Its philosophy emphasizes empowerment and participation for the poor.

<http://www.usccb.org>

The programs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) include Catholic concerns that range from prayers and worship to the state of the economy, from revitalizing parishes to averting nuclear war, from promoting vocations to protecting life at all stages.

<http://www.coc.org>

“The Center of Concern’s thoughtful, provocative analysis and visionary economic and social alternatives have helped grassroots leaders, academics, and decision-makers worldwide gain clarity on what is needed to create a more just future.” (David Beckmann, *Bread for the World*)

<http://www.catholicrelief.org>

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic bishops of the United States to assist the poor and disadvantaged in more than eighty countries around the world.

<http://www.habitat.org>

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, nondenominational Christian housing organization. Habitat welcomes all people to join them in building affordable houses in partnership with those in need of adequate shelter.

<http://www.hungersite.com>

The Hunger Site, founded in June 1999, focuses the power of the Internet on a specific humanitarian need—the eradication of world hunger.

<http://www.ipj-ppj.org>

The Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) is an independent, interfaith, nonprofit organization, begun in 1970, as a response to the realities of war, racism, and global economic injustice.