

*Catholic Social Teaching  
Companion for  
High School Work Camp  
and Immersion Experiences*

## Table of Contents

Introduction to the resource

Section 1: Preparing for a Work Camp or Immersion Experience

- ❖ Resource 1: Creative Planning and Orienting
- ❖ Resource 2: Discerning toward an Experience Rooted in Solidarity
- ❖ Resource 3: Checklist of Health & Safety Actions
- ❖ Resource 4: Sample Packing List

Section 2: Resources for Integrating Catholic Social Teaching & Social Analysis

- ❖ Resource 5: The Pastoral Circle
- ❖ Resource 6: Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
- ❖ Resource 7: Sending Forth From Home Communities
- ❖ Resource 8: Daily Reflections Tools For Use During a Work Camp or Immersion Experience

Section 3: Keeping the Spirit Alive After the Experience

Section 4: Additional Resources

- ❖ Catholic Social Teaching, Short-term Mission and Social Justice Resources (Websites)
- ❖ Catholic Social Teaching, Short-term Mission and Social Justice Resources (Books & Articles)
- ❖ Additional Prayer Resources in Print
- ❖ Social Justice Resources – Sample List of Films

## **Introduction to the Resource:**

*The Church and world need the faith, gifts, energy and fresh ideas of young people. The entire Church . . . must empower young people for their mission in the world. We must also ensure that young people are well equipped for their special mission in the world. All of our efforts to promote an active Christian discipleship and growth in Catholic identity must lead toward mission. This is our special responsibility to the young generation. We pray with the whole Church that we can meet the challenge of *Guadium et Spes*; “. . . the future of humanity lies in the hands of those who are strong enough to provide coming generations with reasons for living and hoping” (no. 31). (Renewing the Vision, 50-51)*

*“We are members of a universal Church that transcends national boundaries and calls us to live in solidarity and justice with the peoples of the world.” (Called to Global Solidarity, USCCB)*

That service is an integral aspect of living our faith has long been understood. How to create service experiences that foster conversion and offer something more than simply providing a helping hand is a bit more challenging. Young Catholics are eager to be aware of the needs of our world and how they can effectively respond; yet, they also need to understand what is expected of them as mature people of faith who will face complex situations and circumstances that require a response rooted in love and a deep respect for life and human dignity. Thus, service must extend beyond the helping hand and take us into the human story; it must go beyond a “doing for” and strive for a “journeying with”. Service must lead to mission.

The U.S. Bishops in their 1997 statement, *Called to Global Solidarity*, challenge us to be open to transformation and to give more of ourselves emotionally, spiritually and financially. Perhaps more important is the additional challenge to *receive* more by seeing with our own eyes the struggles and joys inherent in the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world and learn from their strong faith and testimonies. Work camps and other immersion experiences offer young Catholics in the United States a structured and concrete way to respond to the call to enter into relationship and be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. By entering into relationship with people from a reality other than our own, we start on a journey of transformation of self, society, and the unjust structures that keep us from reaching our God-given potential. Such relationships have the potential to foster a strong sense of mission that can change personal dispositions and encourage tangible actions 1) rooted in discipleship and solidarity and 2) generated for the common good.

This manual provides school or parish leaders with concrete suggestions for integrating a work camp or immersion experience with the Catholic Church’s social teaching. The enclosed tools and resources aim to foster an understanding of the social dimensions of our faith and our baptismal call to care for one’s neighbor. It is also important to consider that immersion experiences often underscore the need to advocate for policies and actions that bring about an end to the conditions that lead to poverty. Serving those in need is a marvelous outreach; recognizing we are responsible for alleviating the causes of suffering mandates that we also advocate for change. This balance of charity with justice is an important connection to make in the faith formation of young people. This resource will help you balance the “two feet of a Christian” – service AND justice.

## **Section 1: Preparing for a Work Camp or Immersion Experience**

To transform your parish or school, helping it to grow deeper in faith and solidarity, the whole community must be involved. The following lists and resources offer a range of ideas to invite participants to explore more carefully the steps they are about to take in addition to ways for involving the whole community to become involved.

### **Resource 1: Creative Planning and Orienting**

- Establish clear goals and expectation for the experience. Eliminate or minimize activities that are touristy and exclusive of the host community.
- Do what you can to foster relationship building into the experience. It is important to take advantage of these experiences as opportunities to deepen not only individual relationships between community members and visiting participants, but the relationship between the two communities. If you are working through an organization, explore potential opportunities before, during and after the experience.
- Explore ways to create an intergenerational experience by involving adults *and* youth in all aspects of the work camp or immersion.
- Begin a routine of prayer through community gatherings and celebrations for the host region or country and for those attending.
- Orient participants to life in the region or country and to relevant human development issues of the host community. If a long-term relationship is to be established, explore opportunities and resources for joint orientation.
- Orient participants to the local culture, including art and music, of the host community. In particular, highlight sensitivity needed for significant cultural factors. Remind participants of particular skills that focus on listening, open dialogue, openness to learn, graciousness, flexibility and gratitude.
- Invite people who have attended previous work camp or immersion experiences to give presentations or witness talks.
- Invite returned or visiting missionaries serving in the location of your work camp or immersion experience to give presentations or witness talks.
- Plan a youth retreat about global solidarity or hunger and poverty, supplementing it with information about issues impacting the host community (see <http://education.crs.org> or <http://foodfast.org> for resources).
- Clarify all financial arrangements in advance of the trip, particularly striving to eliminate burden on the host community. Use the sale of Fair Trade Chocolate (<http://crsfairtrade.org>) as a fundraiser and as a way to educate about the role of fair trade in the global economic system
- Include youth leaders in the planning and developing of the prayers, reflections, community builders, etc.
- Prepare recipes and foods from the host region or country at orientation meetings and parish dinners, and print the recipes for distribution.
- Make use of special seasons or days to highlight issues relevant to the host region or country (e.g. Lent, World AIDS Day, Earth Day, National Migration Week, etc.)

## Resource 2: Discerning toward an Experience Rooted in Solidarity

While we may be eager to “do something” when attending a work camp or immersion experience, it is important to carefully reflect on the implications of prioritizing this within a delegation visit, especially when trying to instill a deeper respect for all people and foster mutual relationships based on solidarity. Below are questions adapted from a former CRS program, *Global Solidarity Partnerships*. The planning committee should honestly consider such questions when selecting an organization with whom to partner or for planning a work camp or immersion experience on your own. While Catholic Relief Services does not sponsor experiences for young people, it does recommend certain organizations whose planning process and work with local communities strive for mutual relationships based on solidarity.

- Has the host community identified the need for this type of work or professional contribution?
- Has the host community participated fully in the planning, decision-making, and implementation of visiting mission trips, or is it a one-sided “helping”?
- Are activities for deepening the relationship central and intentional in the experience, or are they tangential to “getting something done”?
- Do the orientation, reflection and debriefing processes fully integrate Catholic Social Teaching and social analysis or are these aspects simply a “sidebar”?
- Is this mission trip or activity exacerbating, or breaking down, the historic feelings of superiority and inferiority?
- Are you potentially displacing local laborers in providing this service?
- Is the service effort sustainable after the group departs? Will someone locally provide the necessary follow-up?
- Is this labor/professional contribution culturally appropriate?
- Are you seeking opportunities to teach and learn skills, rather than simply “doing for” your partner?
- Does the trip incorporate the opportunity to reflect together on sacred scriptures and our faith, and so deepen our understanding of our faith as when it is seen through the eyes of others?
- Is the mission trip helping both you and your host community to learn about the root causes of the injustice affecting your host community – the economic and political forces and systems which are at play? Does the trip include opportunities to brainstorm ways to work together to address these systems of injustice?
- Have participants made a commitment to continue to serve this community after the trip, in educating others, advocating for change, and promoting the partnership in their own community?

## Resource 3: Checklist of Health & Safety Actions

Adapted from a former CRS program, *Global Solidarity Partnerships*

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>Passport</b> <b>(for international trips)</b>	Follow directions for either renewal or 1 <sup>st</sup> time applicant <a href="http://travel.state.gov">http://travel.state.gov</a> or order/renew through your local post office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• should be valid THROUGH expected date of return to U.S.</li> <li>• carry it on your person at all times</li> <li>• bring extra passport photos</li> <li>• make 3 copies of passport – pack one in suitcase, leave one at home, give one to group leader</li> <li>• allow at least three months to order a passport</li> </ul>
<b>Visa</b> <b>(for international trips)</b>	Embassy in U.S. of country to be visited, OR  <a href="http://www.travisa.com/travelvisa.htm">www.travisa.com/travelvisa.htm</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• research if visa is needed before or at entry into country</li> <li>• if visa is needed before entry into country, decide how it will be secured – as a group or individually</li> <li>• fill out necessary forms and send or hand-carry all documentation to closest consulate</li> <li>• once received, carry it on your person at all times; make copies if possible for group leader</li> </ul>
<b>Travel medications and vaccinations</b>	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention  <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/travel">http://www.cdc.gov/travel</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participants should get a personal supply of antibiotic (e.g. Cipro) to treat severe infection or diarrhea</li> <li>• participants should follow directions for any oral medications to be taken prior to and during the trip</li> <li>• leaders should ensure access to a fully stocked first aid kit for all small groups</li> </ul> <p>For international travel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide a list of required vaccinations for participants and encourage appointments with local travel clinics be made at least 3 months in advance of trip</li> <li>• during the trip, participants should keep a copy of International Vaccination Record with passport copies</li> </ul>
<b>Prescription medications</b> <b>(for pre-existing</b>	Your primary care physician & pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bring personal meds for duration of trip in your carry-on (leaders should have a list of all medications for each participant)</li> <li>• carry a letter from a physician listing medical conditions and current medications, including</li> </ul>

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conditions)		<p>generic names</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• see packing list for suggested everyday meds, including Tylenol, antacids, anti-diarrheal</li> </ul>
<p><b>Traveler's medical insurance</b></p> <p><b>(for international trips)</b></p>	<p>Your medical insurance provider, OR</p> <p>MEDEX  <a href="http://www.medexassist.com">www.medexassist.com</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• call and ask regular provider what is covered by current policy (basic care overseas, emergency care or transport, medical evacuation)</li> <li>• seek additional coverage through MEDEX or another travel insurer</li> </ul> <p>For international travel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all travelers should obtain international coverage, including medical evacuation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Food and water</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.cdc.gov/travel">http://www.cdc.gov/travel</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make sure you drink enough to avoid dehydration</li> <li>• make sure the trip leaders are aware of any dietary needs or restrictions</li> </ul> <p>For international travel into developing nations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drink only bottled water</li> <li>• avoid raw vegetables</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mosquitoes &amp; other pests</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.cdc.gov/travel">http://www.cdc.gov/travel</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wear long sleeves or pants when possible</li> <li>• bring bug repellent</li> <li>• ask if you will need/be provided with mosquito netting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Safety &amp; security</b></p>	<p><a href="http://travel.state.gov">http://travel.state.gov</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use the buddy system</li> <li>• leave valuables at home</li> <li>• determine with partner organization or host community a list of all safety measures and items/tools to bring (e.g., closed-toe shoes, goggles, work gloves, hard hats, etc.)</li> </ul>

**Basic sources of Information for International Travel:**

- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) traveler's health print-out specific to the country to be visited - <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>
- The U.S. Department of State (<http://travel.state.gov>) has a helpful website for international travelers. Be sure to read their 10 tips for travelers page and print out a country specific travel page
- Another helpful website for more information about a country is the CIA factbook <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>. Use the dropdown menu to select the name of the country you wish to research.

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## Resource 4: Sample Packing List

Adapted from a former CRS program, *Global Solidarity Partnerships*

This basic information applies to regions of the United States and most countries. Sponsor organizations may help to whittle down the list or suggest additional items. It is important to know your host community's cultural norms about dress. Please note that social norms for women can be stricter than for men. U.S. citizens often dress as a form of individual expression; while in other countries, dress can be a sign of respect for others. Please consider the following:

### Luggage

Try to pack no more than one moderate suitcase plus one carry-on luggage.

- Participants may wish to bring a money belt, passport pouch and/or a fanny pack.
- If flying, keep everything ABSOLUTELY needed in the carry-on, like passport, passport copies, money, prescription drugs, basic toiletries, glasses, and camera. Depending on the final destination, consider packing a change of clothes in the carry-on. Do not pack Swiss army knives or other sharp implements in carry-on luggage. Airport Security will confiscate these items. Sometimes even nail clippers and razors are not allowed.
- If traveling internationally, keep a copy of your passport in your checked piece of luggage and leave a secondary copy at home.
- Important documents to bring for all trips are form of federal-approved identification, prescriptions for your prescription medication, and possibly an eyeglasses prescription. For flight and/or international trips, bring plane ticket, passport, immunization record, and additional copies of each. Leave at home expensive personal items (e.g., watches, jewelry, etc.).

### Toiletries/Accessories

- Bring what you normally use: toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, shampoo, towel/washcloth, soap, deodorant, razor, wet-wipes or hand cleanser, and other personal toiletries. Travel sizes are best.
- Prescription and travel medications, over-the-counter pain medication (aspirin, Tylenol, etc.) and stomach medication (Pepto-Bismal, immodium, etc.)
- A bandanna or handkerchief is a good idea. A small mirror can be nice to have.
- Sunglasses and a sun hat.
- A small flashlight and a small lock for your luggage (lock to be used in hotels only)
- Sunscreen (high SPF)
- Insect repellent
- Determine appropriate bedding material needed for the trip
- General accessories: camera and back-up batteries, notebook/journal, pen/pencil, water bottle

\*\* If possible, leave ipods and other electronics at home, not only for security reasons, but to be fully present in the experience

### Clothing

In many countries, shorts and jeans are acceptable only at the beach or for sports. Determine in advance weather conditions and access to laundry services and adjust the packing list accordingly. Try to bring clothing that breathes well and dries fast.

- Determine appropriate male and female clothing for work (if applicable) and for community gatherings

- Determine appropriate outerwear based on climate and weather: sweatshirt/sweater, nylon windbreaker, waterproof jacket, hats/caps, etc.
- Underwear and socks
- Determine appropriate shoes for work (if applicable) and for community gatherings
- Pajamas or other comfortable bed wear
- Determine recommended safety-wear for work conditions

*Note to women travelling internationally: consider long skirts as they can actually be much more comfortable and practical than pants, and in some cases, more culturally appropriate.*

## **Section 2: Resources for Integrating Social Analysis and Catholic Social Teaching**

Immersion experiences provide for young people an encounter with our brothers and sisters who live on the margins and with the oft-different realities and struggles they face. The experience itself is an opportunity for relationship not only with their peers, but also – and perhaps most importantly – our people who are often alienated from or “invisible” to many in our society. Such relationships and opportunities can be life-changing and transforming, even more so when young people are invited into a process of reflection and social analysis that aids in understanding and internalizing these experiences. The Pastoral Circle, briefly explained in **Resource 5: The Pastoral Circle**, offers a model of social analysis suitable for most immersion experiences and similar experiences that follow. The model integrates a process of reflection, ongoing discernment and response/action that flows out of an experience or encounter. A basic set of reflection questions for integrating the Pastoral Circle into immersion experiences are also listed in **Resource 5**.

Catholic Social Teaching is often referred to as “our best kept secret;” yet, there exists a wealth of resources to increase awareness about the Catholic Church’s social tradition. Also included in this section is a list of basic principles that flow from the Church’s social tradition (**Resource 6**) and prayer, commissioning and reflection tools based on relevant Catholic Social Themes suitable before and during an extended immersion experience (**Resources 7 & 8**). There are numerous resources offer transformative educational models, simulations, creative use of media, and prayers as compelling approaches for leading young people to a deeper commitment to service and justice. **Section 4: Additional Resources** provides a sampling of relevant links, books and movies that would enhance any work camp or immersion experience.

You may also consider exploring resources offered by **Education for Justice** and **Catholic Relief Services** who compiled this resource:

- ❖ **Resources Available from Education for Justice:** The Education for Justice Web Site was created to help youth ministers, teachers, social action directors, parish members, campus ministers, and others in leadership roles to meet the challenge of sharing Catholic Social Teaching and bring greater awareness to social justice issues. For hundreds of print-ready educational resources on Catholic Social Teaching to use with your youth group go to: <http://www.educationforjustice.org>
- ❖ **Resources Available from Catholic Relief Services:** As part of the universal mission of the Catholic Church, Catholic Relief Services works with local, national and international Catholic institutions and structures, as well as other organizations, to assist people on the basis of need. For educational resources on global solidarity and justice from Catholic Relief Services to: <http://education.crs.org/>

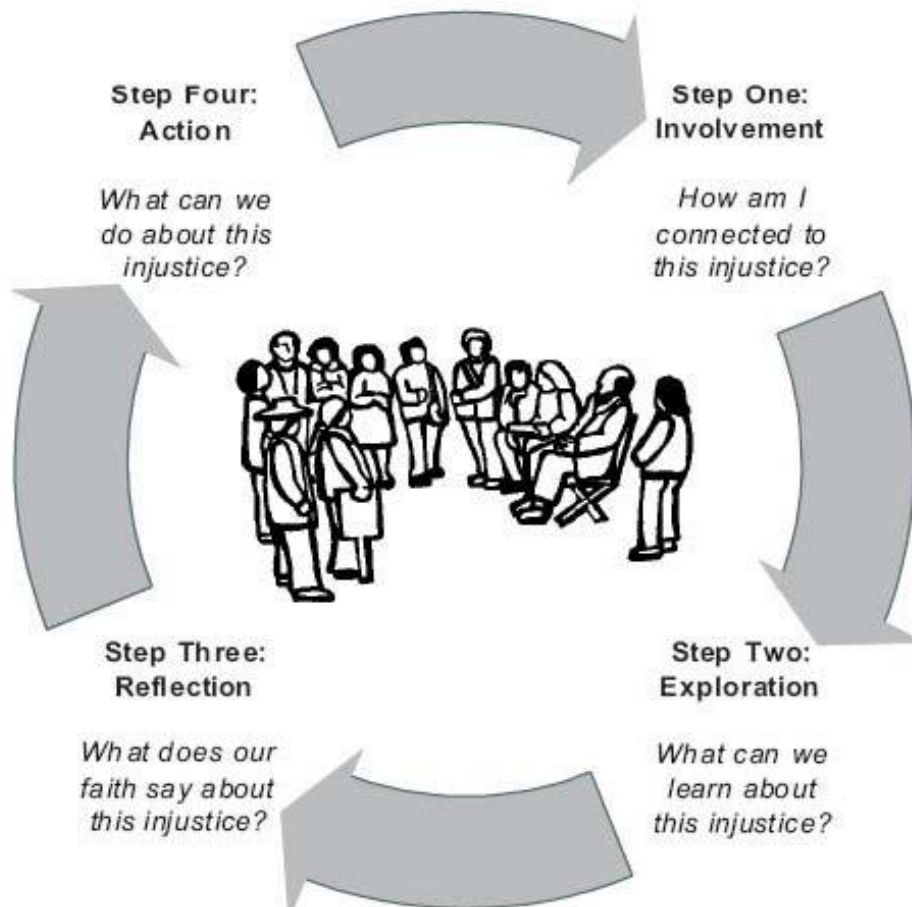
## Resource 5: The Pastoral Circle

Within the Roman Catholic tradition, an approach to social analysis was devised by the Belgian priest, Canon Joseph Cardijn, in the 1920s when he started *Catholic Action*. He encouraged a See-Judge-Act approach, offering “formation through action,” rather than an abstract form of lecturing about the truths of the Faith.

**See** - This first step involves the participants in discovering the reality of a particular situation. It might be, for example, a matter of what health care is available to workers’ families in a certain district. This gathering of data also involves hearing the views of others in the community.

**Judge** - Then follows the Judge part of their analysis. Having been provided information from the social enquiry, the participants evaluate what they have discovered; then they weigh it up in the light of their reflection on the Gospels.

**Act** - After making their judgment, the group plans some action that they can carry out either as a group or as individuals in the coming weeks. This method requires that members gather information about human experiences prior to a discussion on the scriptures. Then, starting from experience and enlightened by the wisdom of the Gospels, they make judgments about the situation before deciding on some social action.



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**General Reflection Questions Following the Pastoral Cycle and For Use During the Entire Week:**

The following questions can be used throughout the week. The experiences of each day should be taken into consideration when determining which questions are most appropriate, especially given any time constraints.

Step 1:

- What did you see? Hear? What was the work like?
- Who did you meet? What did you learn about their lives?
- What are you thinking? Feeling?

Step 2:

- Describe the poverty you witnessed today. What did you learn about the life situations of the people you encountered that helps you to better understand poverty?
- How did you see or encounter hope in your day?
- What did you learn today about embracing hope in the midst of poverty?
- What are the reasons for hope in the midst of poverty?
- Based on your experience today, what situations (individual, societal, economic, political, etc) contribute to poverty? What issues might need to be addressed to help reduce poverty?

Step 3:

- How does your faith challenge you to approach the people and situations you encounter this week?
- How is Christ present in these encounters?
- How can you foster hope in the midst of poverty?

Step 4:

- As a result of today's experiences, what is something you want to make the effort to see, listen to, or do tomorrow?

*You might consider asking these questions at the end of the week for discernment when leaving or after returning home.*

- How has your world view changed this week? In other words, what's different? How do you see (yourself, others, your home community, your world, the larger world) differently?
- What are you thinking as a result of this experience? Feeling?
- To what might God be calling you as a result of the relationships you have shared and the experiences you have had?

## Resource 6: Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

**Source:** [Catholic Relief Services Guiding Principles](#)

As the official international Catholic relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Relief Services draws upon a rich tradition of Scripture and Catholic social teaching, which serve as the foundation for CRS' Guiding Principles. Acting as a guide to what a just world might look like, these Principles are shared across religious and cultural boundaries and articulate values that are common among people who seek to promote and work towards true justice and lasting peace.

### ***Sacredness and Dignity of the Human Person***

Created in the image of God, all human life is sacred and possesses a dignity that comes directly from our creation and not from any action of our own.

### ***Rights and Responsibilities***

Every person has basic rights and responsibilities that flow from our human dignity and that belong to us as human beings regardless of any social or political structures. The rights are numerous and include those things that make life truly human. Corresponding to our rights are duties and responsibilities to respect the rights of others and to work for the common good of all.

### ***Social Nature of Humanity***

All of us are social by nature and are called to live in community with others — our full human potential isn't realized in solitude, but in community with others. How we organize our families, societies and communities directly affects human dignity and our ability to achieve our full human potential.

### ***The Common Good***

In order for all of us to have an opportunity to grow and develop fully, a certain social fabric must exist within society. This is the common good. Numerous social conditions — economic, political, material and cultural — impact our ability to realize our human dignity and reach our full potential.

### ***Subsidiarity***

A higher level of government — or organization — should not perform any function or duty that can be handled more effectively at a lower level by people who are closer to the problem and have a better understanding of the issue.

### ***Solidarity***

We are all part of one human family — whatever our national, racial, religious, economic or ideological differences — and in an increasingly interconnected world, loving our neighbor has global dimensions.

### ***Option for the Poor***

In every economic, political and social decision, a weighted concern must be given to the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. When we do this we strengthen the entire community, because the powerlessness of any member wounds the rest of society.

### ***Stewardship***

There is inherent integrity to all of creation and it requires careful stewardship of all our resources, ensuring that we use and distribute them justly and equitably — as well as planning for future generations.

## Resource 7: Sending Forth From Home Communities

Integrating prayer into the orientation meetings and commissioning participants for service prior to departure can deepen a sense of our faith call to service and be a powerful witness to the larger community. The following prayers and commissioning service can be adapted or used in a way that is suitable for your community. The commissioning service can easily be included in a Sunday liturgy.

### ***Sample Prayers for orientation meetings or at the meeting space before leaving:***

#### **The Call to Service & Promote Peace and Justice**

*by Jane Deren* (Source: [www.educationforjustice.org](http://www.educationforjustice.org). Used with permission.)

We choose to live grounded  
in your love, God of goodness,  
And to proclaim your wisdom,  
the path of justice and peace.  
We are thankful for your call,  
For the Spirit that graces us,  
For the social issues that engage us, and  
For the communities that embrace us.  
You have gifted us  
And called us by name.  
Even in times of darkness  
We are moved toward  
The Light of your Word.  
We form the word peace,  
We sing out the word justice,  
And we become, again and again,  
Part of the chorus that echoes  
Your music, your hope, your vision. Amen.

#### **Justice and Peace Prayer**

*by Jane Deren* (Source: [www.educationforjustice.org](http://www.educationforjustice.org). Used with permission.)

God of Justice and Peace,  
Mold our consciences  
according to justice,  
And shape our hearts  
according to peace,  
That we may recognize the talents  
that you have given us  
To secure the rights of the poor,  
the oppressed, the sick  
and the marginalized.  
God, we are Your children.  
Grant us the courage and strength  
To work for justice,  
And in this way,  
Live out our call  
to be peacemakers. Amen.

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***Sample Commissioning Service to be done after the homily in a community liturgy or at the end of an orientation meeting:***

**Presider:** Let us begin our prayer (+) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Reader:** Luke 4:16-22

**Leader 1:**

God of all peoples, time and again throughout history,  
You have anointed your people and sent them on mission:  
To bring hope to the poor, to heal the sick, to free the oppressed,  
To renew the earth with your love so that all creation might sing of your glory.

Today, we call forth members of our community who wish to respond in a special way  
to Your ever-present invitation to make a difference in the world.

**Leader 2:**

*Call forth each person by name. As a sign of their personal commitment, invite them to dip their hands in holy water and make a sign of the cross. You might also consider commissioning each person with a cross. Fair Trade crosses made by artisans across the world are available through [Catholic Relief Services' Fair Trade](#) program, [People of Hope](#), or other fair trade programs.*

*After each person has come forward, invite all present to extend their hands in blessing.*

**Leader 1 or Presider:**

Creator God, we entrust in your care these – Your people –  
who seek to companion their brothers and sisters in (*name location*).  
Keep them safe in their journey.  
Guide them in the work that awaits them.  
Open their eyes to see your face in the people they meet.  
Open their ears that they may hear your voice in the stories that are shared.  
Open their hearts that they may be present with compassion and tenderness.  
Strengthen their hands that they may respond to human need with love and companionship.  
Encourage and guide them through the challenges that they may be faithful to the commitments they have made.  
For all us here tonight, inspire us to hold each other in prayer.  
Teach us the art of listening carefully to each other so that we may continue to know your call to go into the world.

We pray this blessing as a family of faith called to be one with all in this world.  
We ask this blessing through Jesus Christ, servant, brother, and companion to all.  
Amen.

(Invite applause from those who are present.)

## Resource 8: Daily Reflections Tools For Use During a Work Camp or Immersion Experience

### ***Catholic Social Teaching Principle – Option for the Poor***

#### **Catholic Social Teaching Quotes:**

The option or love of preference for the poor is a special form of primacy in the exercise of Christian charity, to which the whole tradition of the Church bears witness. It affects the life of each Christian inasmuch as he or she seeks to imitate the life of Christ, but it applies equally to our social responsibilities and hence to our manner of living, and to the logical decisions to be made concerning the ownership and use of goods.

Today, furthermore, given the worldwide dimension which the social question has assumed, this love of preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care and, above all, those without hope of a better future. It is impossible not to take account of the existence of these realities. To ignore them would mean becoming like the "rich man" who pretended not to know the beggar Lazarus lying at his gate (cf. Lk 16:19-31).

-Pope John Paul II, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* #42

**Suggested Readings:**   **Ephesians 4, 1-6**  
                                  **John 6, 1-15**

#### **Talking Points:**

- One person can make a difference. Small efforts can initiate growth, development and change. Highlight the power of what happens when one has faith.
- Getting our vision straight is vitally important to the experience this week. We don't want to make an idol out of the work we are doing. It's about the people we are serving and about making the kingdom visible.
- The "Common Good" focuses on the flourishing of the human community. The giving of self leads to multiplication of efforts.
- Explore the nature of greed and its connection to individual and systemic poverty. Highlight ways we have turned money into a god and have forgotten to care for the community. How does Jesus invite us to live differently?
- What do we learn about how God calls us when we tune into the cry of the poor? What do we discover about God through the poor ... who God is and how God listens?

#### **Reflection Questions:**

*These questions are suggested in light of the theme for the day. You might also consider using a sampling of the questions provided in **Resource 5: The Pastoral Cycle***

- Describe your experience today. What disturbed you? What surprised you?
- How did the scriptures relate to your experience today?
- How did you experience God in the people you encountered?
- What does it mean to live in hope?

## ***Suggestions to enhance reflection:***

### **Share this quote:**

Today as in the past, this is what being baptized, becoming Christians, is all about: it is not just an act of socialization within the community, not simply a welcome into the Church...Faith is the substance of hope.

-Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi* #10

### **Reflect/Act:**

*Consider integrating one of the following in your evening prayer and read the prayer that follows.*

- Invite participants to name one way they can speak or bring hope during their work in the day ahead.
- Invite participants to name one way they experience poverty in their lives or in their community and one way they can be a source of hope amidst that poverty.
- Invite participants to sit in a circle. Light a candle and place it in the center. Distribute a piece of foil to each participant and invite each person to individually sculpt it into something that symbolizes the act of bringing hope to the world (e.g., an extended open hand). Play some quiet music in the background while they work on the task. Invite participants to share their symbols and place them in the center of the prayer space.

### **Pray:**

We walk, Lord, guided as pilgrims,  
With confidence that your presence gives us life,  
And it is stronger than the weariness of the road.

When we walk, Lord,  
We know that you keep your promises,  
That a seedling of hope  
Has sprung up in the midst of a dry people.

We walk, Lord, with our hands empty,  
Seeking to be filled with your presence.  
We go full of poverty to be enriched. Amen.

(from *Prayer Without Borders: Celebrating Global Wisdom*. Baltimore, MD: Catholic Relief Services, 2004. p. 12. Used with permission.)

### **Sing:**

*The Cry of the Poor* (John Foley, SJ), *The Least of These* (Janet Sullivan Whitaker) or some other appropriate song.

### **Offer a sign of peace.**

## ***Catholic Social Teaching Principle – Dignity of the Human Person***

### **Catholic Social Teaching Quotes:**

The human person is the clearest reflection of God's presence in the world; all of the Church's work in pursuit of both justice and peace is designed to protect and promote the dignity of every person. For each person not only reflects God, but is the expression of God's creative work and the meaning of Christ's redemptive ministry.

–U.S. Catholic Bishops, *The Challenge of Peace*, #15

God's passionate love for his people—for humanity—is at the same time a forgiving love. It is so great that it turns God against himself, his love against his justice. Here Christians can see a dim prefiguration of the mystery of the Cross: so great is God's love for man that by becoming man he follows him even into death, and so reconciles justice and love.

–Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* #10

### **Suggested readings: Psalm 103**

### **Talking Points:**

- Develop the themes of kindness and mercy (Deus Caritas Est).
- “The Lord is Kind and Merciful” – We are called today to see and encounter God in others. What does it mean to recognize the sacred dignity of each person we encounter? How are we called to be God’s kindness in the world?
- God’s mercy exceeds God’s justice. Considering the attributes of God, what does it mean to take on the attributes of God these days – through kindness, justice, fidelity, slowness to anger, mercy?
- The poor are held in captivity by forces within society; explore the root causes of poverty.

### **Reflection Questions:**

*These questions are suggested in light of the theme for the day. You might also consider using a sampling of the questions provided in **Resource 5: The Pastoral Cycle***

- How does poverty hold people captive? What holds you captive?
- In light of your experience today what did you learn about love?
- In recognizing the various forms of captivity what does it mean to be set free or released? What is broken? And where do we begin to restore the relationships needed to build the bonds of community?
- Where do I personally need God to free me from something that is holding back from being true to who I am?

### ***Suggestions to enhance reflection:***

#### **Share this quote:**

Human persons are willed by God; they are imprinted with God's image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are.

-Pope John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, #11

#### **Reflect/Act:**

*Consider integrating one of the following in your evening prayer and read the prayer that follows.*

- Invite participants to name one person in whom they have seen God's reflection this week? Invite participants to share how they can be a reflection of God tomorrow?
- Invite participants to sit in a circle. Light a candle and place it in the center with Monday's symbols of hope, a medium to large-sized mirror, and window or permanent markers. Invite participants to come forward and write the name of 1 or more individuals in whom they have seen God's reflection thus far during the week. Play some quiet music in the background while doing so. Add the mirror to your group's prayer space with the symbols of hope from Monday night.

#### **Pray:**

God, our lives are filled with your reflection. Open our eyes, ears and hearts that we may see you in all people, wherever and whoever they may be. Stretch out our arms and hearts that we may welcome our brothers and sisters with kindness and mercy. Teach us to both see and be your reflection in this world. We ask this through Christ, our companion and guide. Amen.

#### **Sing:**

*Open Our Eyes* (Jesse Manibusan), *Voices that Challenge* (David Haas) or some other appropriate song.

#### **Offer a sign of peace.**

## ***Catholic Social Teaching Principle - Solidarity***

### **Catholic Social Teaching Quotes:**

Solidarity helps us to see the "other"-whether a person, people or nation-not just as some kind of instrument, with a work capacity and physical strength to be exploited at low cost and then discarded when no longer useful, but as our "neighbor," a "helper" (cf. Gen 2:18-20), to be made a sharer, on a par with ourselves, in the banquet of life to which all are equally invited by God. Hence the importance of reawakening the religious awareness of individuals and peoples.

-Pope John Paul II, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, #39

(Solidarity) is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.

- Pope John Paul II, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, #38

**Reading: Luke 10, 38-42**

### **Talking Points:**

- It can appear that society would think of humanity as “human doings;” yet, we are human beings, called to simply “be” before we “do.” Explore the difference between the two and the value of learning to “be with” others as opposed to “doing for” others. We may not necessarily be called to activity or “doing” for others; instead, we may be called to a deeper quality of presence with others.
- Explore how hospitality can be extended in “being with” others. In welcoming people into our lives, how do we let down the barriers that keep others at a distance from our true selves? How does this relate to a vision of solidarity to which we are called to embrace?
- Martha and Mary have different responses to being in the presence of Jesus. Invite young people to explore the difference between their choices and their reaction to Jesus’ response.
- What is the cost or risk of opening eyes? Of keeping our eyes closed? How does the act of “being with” others teach us to open our eyes and see more clearly?

### **Reflection Questions:**

*These questions are suggested in light of the theme for the day. You might also consider using a sampling of the questions provided in **Resource 5: The Pastoral Cycle***

- What have you learned this week about being with people?
- What blinds us from seeing those who live on the margins?
- Who are the poor in our home communities that we often do not see?
- How do you see yourself in relationship with those who live in the margins?
- What might today’s scripture teach us about serving?
- How can we better learn from and work with each other as opposed to going in and “doing for” someone else?

## ***Suggestions to enhance reflection:***

### **Share this quote:**

The deepest level of communication is not communication, but communion. It is wordless. It is beyond words, and it is beyond speech, and it is beyond concept. Not that we discover a new unity. We discover an older unity. My dear brothers and sisters, we are already one. But we imagine that we are not. And what we have to discover is our original unity. What we have to become is who we already are.

- Thomas Merton

### **Reflect/Act:**

*Consider integrating one of the following in your evening prayer and read the prayer that follows.*

- Invite participants to join in a lap sit (or some other activity that symbolizes unity). Gather participants in a close-knit circle facing the back of the person to their right. On the count of three, ask participants to slowly and gently sit down so that each person is seated on the lap of the person behind him/her. Once all have seated on another person's lap and the circle of participants is fully supported, invite all to take one step with their right foot, another step with their left foot, and so on ... creating a group walk in a circle. When finished, invite participants to share how this activity symbolizes our call to solidarity. Ask participants to share one thing they can do individually or as a group to foster unity at their work sites.
- Invite participants to sit in a circle. Light a candle and place it in the center with Monday's symbols of hope and the mirror from Tuesday's prayer. Distribute to each participant a small piece of string. Invite participants to think about barriers experienced in their lives with individuals and/or groups. Ask them to choose one person or group and to consider one way they can attempt to "build a bridge" toward forgiveness and unity. After providing some time for silent reflection, begin by sharing an example from your life. When you have finished sharing, tie the two ends of your string to form a circle. Invite participants to share their "barriers" and "acts of unity" or to simply say, "Pray for me." Instruct participants to tie their strings so that a chain link is formed with others who have gone before. The last person should link all strings into a linked circle. Invite participants to consider the symbolism of the chain links, *their unifying and unified actions*, in light of who we are as one human family. Add the chain to the other prayer symbols from earlier in the week.

### **Pray:**

Loving God, send us forth tonight with a renewed connection to people throughout the world. May our own hopes, dreams, and desires, be rooted more deeply with theirs. Guide us as a global community so we may one day soon see ourselves as you created us: one human family, one through You and in You. Where there is violence, give us the words and actions that heal and foster peace. Where there is great need, open our hearts that we may generously share of ourselves and our resources to provide aid. Where there is division, teach us to love our way back to unity. For all these things we pray. Amen.

### **Sing:**

*Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ* (Jaime Cortez) or some other appropriate song.

### **Offer a sign of peace.**

## ***Catholic Social Teaching Principle – Call to Family, Community and Participation***

### **Catholic Social Teaching Quotes:**

Love of God leads to participation in the justice and generosity of God towards others. Loving God requires an interior freedom from all possessions and all material goods: the love of God is revealed in responsibility for others.

-Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*, #28

Where freedom is concerned, we must remember that human freedom always requires a convergence of various freedoms... Let us put it very simply: human beings need God, otherwise they remain without hope.

– Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*, #23

**Suggested Readings:**    **Psalm 84**  
                                  **Matthew 13, 47-53**

### **Talking Points:**

- Break open the notion that God's kingdom is already but not yet fully realized. What within our world continues to oppress people, hold them captive and/or blind them? What within our culture, society and church is oppressive and needs to be liberated?
- Explore the signs of God's kingdom in our midst. What within our world fosters hope, true freedom, relationship, forgiveness? What is the prophetic value of these positive elements of our world?

### **Reflection Questions:**

*These questions are suggested in light of the theme for the day. You might also consider using a sampling of the questions provided in **Resource 5: The Pastoral Cycle***

- What in our society oppresses people or prevents them from living with dignity?
- How can you use your gifts to free people from the things that oppress them?
- How is your heart being enlarged or changed this week?
- How do the relationships we have established this week free people to be part of the Christian community? How do they lead people to the fullness of life promised by Jesus?
- In your group of friends, what labels are used to divide and distance you from one another? What can you do to repair that damage? and restore dignity?

## **Suggestions to enhance reflection:**

### **Share this quote:**

“...Sin is understood by the Church as the destruction of the unity of the human race, as fragmentation and division. Babel, the place where languages were confused, the place of separation, is seen to be an expression of what sin fundamentally is. Hence “redemption” appears as the reestablishment of unity, in which we come together once more in a union that begins to take shape in the world community of believers.”

-Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe Salvi*, #14

### **Reflect/Act:**

*Consider integrating the following in your evening prayer and read the prayer that follows.*

- Invite participants to sit in a circle. Light a candle and place it in the center with Monday’s symbols of hope, the mirror from Tuesday’s prayer, and the chain links from Wednesday’s prayer. Place a large bowl of water in the center with a large towel. If you have not used symbols earlier in the week, simply place a lighted candle with a bowl of water and a towel in the center. Invite a participant to read the story of the washing of the feet in John 13. When the reading has finished, explore with participants the notion of service as offered in this passage. Play quiet music when finished and invite participants to come forward one at a time to wash and dry the hands or feet of another participant and then offer a sign of peace. After one is washed, s/he should wash the hands or feet of the next participant until all have both served and been served.

### **Prayer: A Prayer to Focus**

by Jane Deren (Source: [www.educationforjustice.org](http://www.educationforjustice.org). Used with permission.)

What is really important?

God, help me to focus on what is really important.

Help me to focus on what will give life.

Help me to focus on what promotes justice and peace.

Help me to let go of all the little things that don’t matter.

Help me to let go of any legalism that blocks your spirit.

God, you are my Mother, my Father; You love me.

Help me to trust in your plan – your plan for life.

- your plan for the fullness of life for everyone.

God, you are the Spirit of Life for the whole world.

Remove violence from my life.

Remove violence from our world.

Teach us how to speak up for justice without violence.

Teach us how to learn from the poor.

Teach us how to drop our religious intolerance  
and to learn from each other.

God, help us to focus on what is really important.

Help us to focus on what will give life.

Help me to focus on what promotes justice and peace. Amen.

### **Sing:**

*The Basin and the Towel* (Michael Card), *We Are Called* (David Haas) or some other appropriate song.

## ***Catholic Social Teaching Principle – The Common Good***

### **Catholic Social Teaching Quotes:**

The common good embraces the sum total of all those conditions of social life which enable individuals, families, and organizations to achieve complete full human flourishing.

- Pope John XXIII, *Mater et Magistra*, #74

Every social group must take account of the needs and legitimate aspiration of other groups, and even of the general welfare of the entire human family.”

-Vatican II, *Gaudium et Spes*, #26

The dignity of the human person requires the pursuit of the common good. Everyone should be concerned to create and support institutions that improve the conditions of human life.

-Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1926

**Suggested Readings:**    **Luke 4, 16-22**  
                                      **Matthew 25, 31-46**

### **Talking Points:**

- What does it mean to witness to your faith? Explore how a prophet is called to witness even in the midst of not being acknowledged.
- Explore the communal nature of faith and the responsibility to others upheld in that nature.
- Explain how justice demands of us to be in right relationship. As spoken to us by the prophets, we are called to be in right relationship with God, ourselves, and neighbor. Explore what it means to be in right relationship. How does Jesus offer a vision of what it means to be in right relationship with God and neighbor?

### **Reflection Questions:**

*These questions are suggested in light of the theme for the day. You might also consider using a sampling of the questions provided in **Resource 5: The Pastoral Cycle***

- What have you learned through your experiences this week that has given you a deeper sense of what it means to work together for the common good?
- What are some of the significant high points of your time this week?
- What’s one new thing you have learned about yourself this week?
- What’s one new thing you have learned about others this week?
- As Christians we are called to be ‘one body in Christ.’ How have you experienced this through the opportunities of this week?

## ***Suggestions to enhance reflection:***

### **Share this quote:**

Love is the light—and in the end, the only light—that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working. Love is possible, and we are able to practice it because we are created in the image of God. To experience love and in this way to cause the light of God to enter into the world.

—Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, #39

**Read:** Hebrews 13, 1-2

### **Reflect/Act:**

*Consider integrating the following in your evening prayer and read the prayer that follows.*

- Invite participants to sit in a circle. Light a candle and place it in the center with Monday's symbols of hope, the mirror from Tuesday's prayer, the chain links from Wednesday's prayer, and the large bowl of water and towel from Thursday's prayer. If you have not used other symbols earlier in the week, simply light a candle and place it in the center. Distribute taper candles and drip protectors to each participant. Invite one participant to come forward, light his/her candle from the center candle, and name one person from this week whose light they want to carry and one person back home to whom they can carry the light, perhaps someone who may be in need of receiving God's light.

### **Prayer:**

God, our hope and light, we know your deep love for us and for all people.  
Enlighten for us the areas of our lives that still need change and growth,  
so that we may better love and serve you,  
so that we may better be able to bring your justice and peace to this world.

Guide us so that our work may be done in unity with you.  
Implant in our memories the stories and spirit of those we have encountered  
that we may continue to be inspired to respond to others  
with welcoming hearts and open hands wherever you lead us.

We go forward from this time together with hopeful hearts,  
trusting that your mercy and compassion brings comfort and freedom  
to all who seek your presence.  
Grant us the grace to love as Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen.

### **Sing:**

*Go Make A Difference* (Steve Agrisano), *City of God* (Dan Schutte), *Cry the Gospel* (Tom Booth)  
or some other appropriate song.

**Offer a sign of peace.**

### **Section 3: Keeping the Spirit Alive After the Experience**

Experiences like this can be a vehicle for transformation of the whole community. Typically, young people who have attended a work camp or immersion trip have had a rich experience, witnessing profound lives and stories of hope, faith and courage. Most young people will want to keep the experience alive and fresh. Moreover, they will need support of others as they journey through ongoing discernment about how to respond to this experience. The more the broader community understands their experience, the more they can share this faith journey with participants and join in the efforts that help our brothers and sisters around the world.

Listed below are suggestions for keeping the experience alive and helping young people continue to “unpack” the experience long after they have returned.

- Plan an evening of prayer and reflection for participants about 1-2 weeks after you have returned to help process continued learning, social analysis and discernment for a next response.
- Invite participants to plan a process to share the experience with their home community. Invite participants to offer a reflection at a mass or school assembly. Organize a booth with information, stories and pictures. Host a Global Solidarity Week or Day at the parish or school (see <http://education.crs.org> for resources) that incorporates cultural activities, story-telling, simulations and information learned during the work camp or immersion experience.
- If possible, connect youth in your parish or school to youth in the region to which you will be traveling through an exchange of photographs, music, or class letters.
- Use photos and videos about the trip as a tool to share the story when you return and to promote future delegations.
- Designate a space in the parish for ongoing news and updates, including photos, reflections, cultural items, project information, etc.
- Share stories from the experience through the use of one-page fliers in parish bulletins.
- Use recipes and foods from the host region or country at parish dinners, and print the recipes for distribution.
- Include fair trade items from the partner country in annual bazaars and Christmas sales. (Catholic Relief Services' *Work of Human Hands* catalogue is one source for fair trade items)
- Make use of special seasons or days to highlight issues in your partnership (e.g. Lent, World AIDS Day, Earth Day, National Migration Week, etc.)
- Keep up with the news to see what is happening in your host region or country and keep your parish informed of any major events there.
- Sponsor youth nights, talks and prayer vigils with guest speakers familiar with the host region or country.
- Organize letter-writing campaigns on legislative issues that impact the host community and other domestic and global issues. Review the list of additional resources in section 4 for advocacy communities and legislative networks.
- Visit elected representatives to voice your concerns about legislative issues affecting the host community or region of the world.
- Compose standardized prayers of the faithful for community liturgies to remember the needs of your host community and all our brothers and sisters living in poverty or rendered vulnerable.

## **Section 4: Additional Resources**

### **Catholic Social Teaching, Short-term Mission and Social Justice Resources (Websites)**

The following list of websites contains a variety of theological, educational and prayer resources that can be used for formation of high school-age youth and parish communities. The link is embedded and in light blue color.

[US Catholic Conference of Bishops](#) – The primary website for the US Catholic Conference of Bishops offers numerous links concerning Church teaching and issues of faith, including a variety of resources on social justice.

[Office of Justice, Peace and Human Development](#) – The USCCB committee responsible for sharing the social teaching of the Church, applying Catholic Social Teaching to major domestic and international issues with moral dimensions, advocating on behalf of the poor and vulnerable and empowering US Catholics to act in defense of human life, human dignity and human rights

[Catholic Campaign for Human Development \(CCHD\)](#) – The USCCB sub-committee that responds to poverty in the US through education and the provision of grants to community organizations and human development efforts

[Poverty USA](#) - CCHD's multimedia education center exploring poverty in the United States

[USCCB Respect Life Program](#) – Resources for prayer, formation and advocacy provided under the guidance of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities

Recent initiatives offered through the USCCB and other Catholic Institutions:

[Catholic Coalition on Climate Change](#) – Initiative providing resources from the USCCB and numerous partners calling Catholics to promote the common good in the effort to protect “the human environment and the natural environment”

[Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#) – A call to join one million Catholics in confronting global poverty through prayer, education, and advocacy and in living in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around world

[Catholic Teaching on Economic Life](#) – Resources to guide Catholics in analyzing economic life in the light of Catholic Social Teaching and in responding in ways that promote the dignity of all

[Catholic Charities USA](#) - The national office for more than 1700 local Catholic Charities agencies and institutions provides leadership and resources to help Catholics join CCUSA's efforts to reduce poverty, support families, and empower communities.

[Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America](#) – CCUSA's campaign that strives to engage US Catholics in numerous efforts aimed at reducing poverty in half by 2020

[Catholic Relief Services \(CRS\)](#) – The international relief and development agency of the US Catholic Church provides numerous opportunities and resources that empowers US Catholics to live in solidarity with the global poor.

[Going Global with Youth](#) - Educational & prayer resources appropriate for Catholic youth ministry and education

[Food Fast](#) – CRS' hunger awareness program rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and designed to foster leadership in young people

[CRS Fair Trade](#) - CRS' economic justice program that connects Catholics to the Fair Trade marketplace, specifically CRS' Fair Trade coffee, chocolate and crafts programs, and provides numerous educational resources on fair trade

[Operation Rice Bowl](#) – CRS' Lenten program of prayer, fasting, learning and almsgiving

Created by: Sr. Katherine Feely, SND, Ted Miles, and Justin Bartkus.

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[CRS Legislative Advocacy Action Center](#) – CRS' advocacy center for staying on top of current issues in light of Catholic Social Teaching

[Center of Concern](#) – A faith-based organization that works to foster social and economic justice, social change and greater commitment to Catholic Social Tradition through analysis, education, advocacy and capacity building.

[Education for Justice](#) – The Center of Concern's education resource website aimed at deepening knowledge of the social tradition of our faith and fostering solidarity with those who live in poverty and oppression

[From Mission to Mission](#) – This Roman Catholic network laity, religious, priests and ministers who have been involved in cross-cultural ministry, either overseas or domestically, offers resources for continued discernment, including a guide titled [What About Short-term Mission?](#)

[JustFaith](#) – Just Faith Ministries develops workshops and programs aimed at empowering a greater commitment to social justice and social ministry in both individuals and communities.

[Justice Walking](#) – JustFaith Ministries' process designed for youth

[Justice for Immigrants Campaign](#) – This Catholic-based network and campaign provides resources on comprehensive immigration reform for organizers, parishes, policymakers, media and immigrants

[Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns](#) – A resource site representing the Maryknoll Sisters, Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers, Maryknoll Lay Missioners and the Maryknoll Affiliates brings the Maryknoll experience to education, advocacy, and policymaking.

[Network](#) – A Catholic leader in education, lobbying, and community organizing provides numerous tools and opportunities to get involved in efforts that foster social transformation.

[Office of Justice & Peace, St. Paul/Minneapolis](#) – A comprehensive resource site on Catholic Social Teaching sponsored by the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis contains numerous links, quotes, and assorted educational and parish resources.

[Pax Christi USA](#) – The US section of Pax Christi International, the Catholic peace movement, commits itself to peace education and promotion of the gospel values of peacebuilding.

[UK Catholic Agency for Overseas Development](#) – The official overseas relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales provides numerous educational resources for children, youth and adults.

[8<sup>th</sup> Day of Justice](#) – 8<sup>th</sup> Day of Justice is a coalition of Catholic religious congregations committed to providing a voice for justice and fostering social change.

## **Catholic Social Teaching, Short-term Mission and Social Justice Resources (Books & Articles)**

### **Recommended books/articles for learning more about Catholic Social Teaching and Short-Term Mission Experiences:**

*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Washington, DC: USCCB, 2004.

DeBerri, Edward P. & James E. Hug. *Catholic Social Teaching: Our Best Kept Secret (Fourth Revised and Expanded Edition)*. New York: Orbis Books & Washington DC: Center of Concern, 2004.

Fourre, Connie. *Journey to Justice: Transforming Hearts and Schools with Catholic Social Teaching*. Washington, DC: NCEA, 2003.

Hassl, Mike. *From Helping to Solidarity: A Reflection on Short Term Mission Trips as part of Parish Twinning Relationships*. St. Paul / Minneapolis: Center for Mission, 2006.

Himes, Kenneth R. OFM. *Responses to 101 Questions on Catholic Social Teaching*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2001

Hogan, John P. *Credible Signs of Christ Alive: Case Studies from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development*. Washington, DC: USCCB, 2003.

Kammer, SJ, Fred. *Doing Faithjustice: An Introduction to Catholic Social Thought*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2004.

Lupien, Julie., *What About Short-Term Mission? A Guide for Leaders and Participants of Short-term Mission Experiences*. Longmont, CO: From Mission to Mission, 2006.

McKenna, Kevin. *A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2002.

Prevallet, Elaine. *Toward a Spirituality for Global Justice: A Call to Kinship*. Louisville, KY: Sowers Books, 2005.

Tshimika, Parisha K. and Tim Lind. *Sharing Gifts in the Global Family of Faith: One Church's Experiment*. Intercourse, PA., Good Books, 2003

Van Engen, JoAnn. *The Cost of Short Term Missions*. *The Other Side*, January/February 2000.  
[www.ajshonduras.org/joannsarticle.pdf](http://www.ajshonduras.org/joannsarticle.pdf)

### **Additional prayer resources in print:**

Ballenger, Barbara (ed.). *Prayers without Borders: Celebrating Global Wisdom*. Baltimore, MD: Catholic Relief Services, 2004.

Leach, Michael & Susan Perry (eds.). *A Maryknoll Book of Prayer*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 2003.

McGinnis, James. *Praying for Peace Around the Globe*. Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 2009.

Millar, Peter. *Our Hearts Still Sing*. Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2004.

O'Donohue, John. *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*. New York: Doubleday, 2008.

Parachin, Victor M. (ed.). *Prayers from Around the World and Across the Ages*. Chicago: ACTA Publications, 2004.

Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors. *Living God's Justice: Reflections and Prayers*. Cincinnati: Ave Maria Press, 2006.

## **Social Justice Resources – Sample List of Films**

(Films should always be previewed in advance of showing any audience for ratings, age-appropriateness and development of proper reflection tools for use during or after the film. In some cases, it may be more appropriate to show clips or small portions of certain film rather than showing them in their entirety.)

- Babette's Feast** (*Eucharist, community, common good, hunger, human dignity*)
- Bella** (*human dignity, respect for life, Hispanic community, responsibility, hope, family*)
- Crash** (*migration, poverty, common good, solidarity, trafficking, human dignity, human rights & responsibility*)
- Dying To Live: A Migrant's Story** (*UND Institute for Latino Studies documentary on migration*)
- Entertaining Angels** (*Dorothy Day, poverty, peacebuilding, solidarity, option for the poor*)
- Gandhi** (*Gandhi, India, political responsibility, human rights, human dignity, peacebuilding*)
- Hotel Rwanda** (*Africa, genocide, human dignity, human rights & responsibility, political responsibility, forgiveness, solidarity*)
- Life and Debt** (*Jamaica, poverty, World Bank, human rights & responsibility, economic justice*)
- Line in the Sand: Stories from the US/Mexico Border** (CRS) (*immigration, human dignity, common good, human rights & responsibility, poverty, dignity of work, solidarity*)
- Lives for Sale** (Maryknoll/PBS) (*trafficking, migration, human dignity, human rights & responsibility*)
- The Long Walk Home** (*Civil Rights Movement, discrimination, human dignity, human rights & responsibility, common good, dignity of work, forgiveness, solidarity*)
- Lost Boys of Sudan** (*Africa, Sudan, genocide, rights of children, human dignity, human rights & Responsibility, participation*)
- Mission, The** (*South America, evangelization, Eucharist, human dignity, human rights & responsibility*)
- Namesake, The** (*India, solidarity, call to family, poverty/materialism, faith, human dignity*)
- Paper Clips** (*dignity of youth, holocaust, common good, human responsibility, solidarity*)
- Pay It Forward** (*service, family, common good, participation, human responsibility*)
- Planet Earth** (Discovery) (*stewardship, common good, human responsibility*)
- Pursuit of Happiness, The** (*poverty, human dignity, human rights & responsibility, common good, family*)
- Romero** (*El Salvador, Oscar Romero, poverty, human dignity, Eucharist, human rights & responsibility, solidarity*)
- Roots** (*historic miniseries that focused on slavery, human dignity, human rights & responsibility, common good, solidarity*)
- Schindler's List** (*holocaust, war, Jewish studies, human dignity, human rights & responsibility, dignity of work*)
- Slumdog Millionaire** (*India, poverty, human dignity, violence of poverty, women's issues, hope, respect for religious freedom*)
- Soloist, The** (*homelessness, US poverty, mental illness, human dignity, rights and responsibilities, common good, advocacy*)
- Strangers No Longer** (USCCB) (*Catholic teaching on migration, human dignity, poverty*)
- Visitor, The** (*immigration, human dignity, community, human rights & responsibility, solidarity*)
- Wall-E** (*stewardship & environment, pollution, human responsibility, common good, connection to future generations*)
- Water of Life** (CRS) (*sacramentality of water, stewardship, human rights & responsibility, solidarity, common good*)