CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE

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Reflect

☀ How has your faith or values informed your views about social justice?

☀ How would you define justice and charity?
Charity vs. Justice

**Charity:**
- Direct service
- Individual acts
- Immediate needs
- Symptoms of injustice
- Socially acceptable

*Think Good Samaritan!*

**Justice:**
- Social change
- Public, collective actions
- Long-term
- Structures of injustice
- Challenges society

*Think Exodus Story!*

NETWORK Advocates Training
Both charity and justice are required of us.

“Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveler who has been attacked.

It is justice's role to prevent the attack.”

- Blessed Frédéric Ozanam
What is Justice?

☀ Justice, at its most fundamental level, concerns what each person deserves to have
- Individual Agency
- Equitable Social Conditions
Scripture
- Old Testament prophets
- Gospel teachings
Foundations of Catholic Social Justice

🌟 Catholic Social Teaching
- *Gaudium et Spes* (1965)
- Witness of Pope Francis’ papacy
Catholic Social Tradition
- Public witness of believers
  • Sister Miriam Theresa, SNJM (Caroline Gleason)
  • Sister Antonia Ebo, FSM,
  • Dorothy Day
  • Cesar Chavez
Lived Realities

- “Realities are greater than ideas" (Evangelli Gaudium, 2013)
- Those who suffer from injustice and their prophetic call for change
Guiding Principles of Catholic Social Justice

At NETWORK, we believe that Catholic Social Justice calls us to:

☀ Uphold the dignity of each person as an equally valuable member of the human family

☀ Embrace our right and responsibility to participate with others in our shared public life

☀ Be in solidarity with those who are living in poverty in the struggle against structures of injustice

☀ Bridge divisions, rising above individual interest for the good of the whole community

☀ Unite with workers to build an economy that puts people, not profit, at the center

☀ Nurture the earth, recognizing that we are interdependent with the rest of God’s creation
Form into groups of 3-4 and introduce yourself
Silently reflect for a minute before starting
- "What do I need to learn?" and "What new information or ideas am I being invited to consider today?"
Assign readers for each section
Run through reflection together
Debrief in large group
Questions?

Thank you!