

# CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE

Elissa Hackerson

Colin Martinez Longmore

*NETWORK Advocates Training*

# 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!*

# Charity or Justice?

**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 it's most fundamental level, concerns what each person deserves to have
  - Individual Agency
  - Equitable Social Conditions

# Foundations of Catholic Social Justice

## ☀ Scripture

- Old Testament prophets
- Gospel teachings



# Foundations of Catholic Social Justice

- ☀ Catholic Social Teaching
  - *Gaudium et Spes* (1965)
  - Witness of Pope Francis' papacy





# Foundations of Catholic Social Justice

## ☀ Catholic Social Tradition

- Public witness of believers

- Sister Miriam Theresa, SNJM (Caroline Gleason)
- Sister Antona Ebo, FSM,
- Dorothy Day
- Cesar Chavez











# Foundations of Catholic Social Justice

- ☀ Lived Realities
  - **“Realities are greater than ideas”**  
*(Evangelii Gaudium, 2013)*
  - Those who suffer from injustice and their prophetic call for change



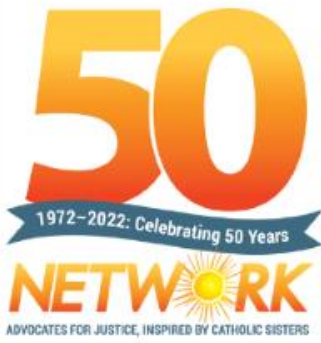
# Guiding Principles of Catholic Social Justice

**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

# Small Group Reflection

- ☀️ 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!*

