

Grade Six

What does it mean to work for social justice?

It is important to realize that working for social justice takes more than simply dropping off a few canned goods at the food pantry around Christmas time. Choosing justice should be a choice to work for changes that provide long-term solutions, not just making something better for the moment. That is the difference.

Seven Principles of Social Mission

Within the Catholic understanding of justice, there are seven underlying principles that may help you recognize situations that you would like to see changed.

1. **Dignity of the human person**—All people are sacred.
2. **Call to community and participation** – The human person is a social being, one part of the human family.
3. **Rights and responsibilities** – All people have fundamental rights and responsibility to respect those rights in others.
4. **Option for the poor**—Society’s most vulnerable members must be treated with equality.
5. **Dignity of work**-- People have the right to work and earn fair wages.
6. **Solidarity**--We are one human family called to work for justice.
7. **Care for God’s creation** – We have the responsibility to care for the goods of the earth as gifts from God

Here are some grade level activities that will:

- Help raise the children’s awareness of certain social issues
 - Provide an opportunity for children to integrate a sense of God’s justice into their own lives
 - Encourage the children to participate in a process of long term change for the common good of all.
1. This project is about teaching tolerance. Hold a class discussion about the meaning of tolerance. Ask for examples of a one-on-one encounter that someone the students’ age might have in which tolerance would be needed. You might invite some of the students to act out a situation. Discuss the situations and the consequences of being or not being tolerant. As a class, make a list of the Top Ten reasons why tolerance is important.
 2. Invite the students do a search on their computers of websites that give information on ways to battle hunger around the world. Ask some volunteers to report on the websites they found (*The Hunger Site* is a good one). Investigate and choose an organization that the class can work with throughout the year.

