



## **Parish Social Mission Week, Feb. 3-9: The Call to Justice**

Being a believer means that one lives a certain way—walking with the Lord, doing justice, loving, kindness, and living peaceably among all people. ... Our society urgently needs the everyday witness of Christians who take the social demands of our faith seriously. The pursuit of justice is an essential part of the Catholic call to holiness, which is our true vocation: to live “in Christ” and to let Christ live and work in our world today.

*Everyday Christianity: To Hunger & Thirst for Justice, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1998*

Justice will never be fully attained unless people see in the poor person, who is asking for help in order to survive, not an annoyance or a burden, but an opportunity for showing kindness and a chance for greater enrichment. Only such an awareness can give the courage needed to face the risk and the change involved in every authentic attempt to come to the aid of another. It is not merely a matter of "giving from one's surplus," but of helping entire peoples which are presently excluded or marginalized to enter into the sphere of economic and human development.

- Pope John Paul II, *The Hundredth Anniversary of Rerum Novarum*

If charity is to be realistic and effective, it demands that the Gospel of life be implemented also by means of certain forms of social activity and commitment in the political field, as a way of defending and promoting the value of life in our ever more complex and pluralistic societies. Individuals, families, groups and associations, albeit for different reasons and in different ways, all have a responsibility for shaping society and developing cultural, economic, political and legislative projects which, with respect for all and in keeping with democratic principles, will contribute to the building of a society in which the dignity of each person is recognized and protected and the lives of all are defended and enhanced.

- Pope John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life*

One of the greatest injustices in the contemporary world consists precisely in this: that the ones who possess much are relatively few and those who possess almost nothing are many. It is the injustice of the poor distribution of the goods and services originally intended for all.

- Pope John Paul II, *On Social Concerns*

