

Catholic Social Teaching with Students Grades 6-8

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- Students share observations and feelings about persons who are physically challenged, etc.
- Students take an adjective inventory in which each child lists one positive attribute for each classmate.
- Students read the *Diary of Anne Frank* and discuss the causes and effects of anti-Semitism and racism.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

- Students invite a guest speaker to share their organization's role in building the community.
- Students plan a family night (where all members stay in).
- Use excerpts from family shows to discuss how they portray family life

Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person

- Students discuss necessities of human life: food, clothing, housing, healthcare, education, security, and employment.
- Students read about Rosa Parks and discuss her role in the Civil Rights Movement.
- Students adopt a school in Haiti or elsewhere and contribute supplies and books using their own money.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- Students share a meal that simulates unequal distribution of food in the world and share reactions and feelings.
- Students research organizations such as: Catholic Relief Services Bread for the World, and local agencies to learn what they can do for the poor.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- Students list jobs that value people over things.
- Students explore service dimensions of jobs.
- Students brainstorm emotions evoked by various types of work.

Solidarity of the Human Family

- Students discuss how they would react to or cope with situations faced by peoples who suffer injustice.
- Research world hunger and create a map to illustrate the disparity of resources in the world.
- Read *The Box* (a poem on war) by Kanderw Lascelles and *Sadaka and the Thousand Paper Cranes*.

Care for God's Creation

- Students research articles on how our use of resources impacts our world and its future.
- Students conduct an Earth Day prayer service using the book *Brother Eagle, Sister Sky: a message from Chief Seattle* by Susan Jeffers.