

Catholic Social Teaching with Students K-2

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- Read and discuss *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister, a story about the loneliness of being selfish.
- Have children invite their grandparents into the classroom to share experiences.
- Have children make an “attribute” sheet describing good qualities about their fellow students.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

- Make a classroom chart of how children can help their family- get input from students.
- Have children pray for families in crisis.
- Write thank-you notes to family members who have done something special for them.

Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person

- Assign children work partners to complete a specific task.
- Review rules for classroom: raising hands, waiting in line.
- Dramatize the story of the Prodigal Son.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- Children use their allowance or earn money to buy food for soup kitchens or homeless.
- Children come up with Christian ways to show kindness and caring to others.
- Remember the poor and needy in Mass petitions or daily prayers.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- Set up a “job” chart for classroom chores-rotate responsibilities among students.
- Have children discuss their chores at home.
- Make cards of appreciation for school employees: janitor, cafeteria worker, principal.

Solidarity of the Human Family

- Make a chain of good deeds to show how actions affect others.
- Invite parents of different cultural backgrounds to share holiday traditions with class.
- Class discusses current world events in which someone took responsibility for others and how their good act made a difference.

Care for God’s Creation

- Create a “Ladder of Life” by cutting and gluing pieces of paper to rope or yarn. The bottom rung of the ladder is plant life, then moves up each rung to animal life, people, angels and then God.
- Make bird feeders to hang outside the classroom window.
- Start a recycling bin in the classroom for paper.

