



SOCIAL JUSTICE KIT

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

INTRODUCTION

Our concern for social justice arises out of the story of Jesus, out of the teachings of the Church, and out of our spirituality.

At the heart of Jesus' message is the eternal and enduring compassion of God. It was foreshadowed by the prophets as the Promise of a New Jerusalem.

Faithful to the Scriptures, the church has made a preferential option for the poor, introducing pastoral policies and strategies in their favour. We cannot remain untouched by the cry of the poor, always trying to find ways to respond.

In a world we now recognise as intimately connected in its every dimension, we understand that 'peace among all peoples' is 'inseparable' from 'peace with all creation' Pope John Paul II, World Day of Peace Message 1990

These teachings shape our spirituality, a way of living in reality that sees more than materialism and individualism. Our spirituality helps shape the decisions we make on social issues that come before us and our community."

DISCUSSION: What is meant by "a preferential option for the poor"?

OPTION FOR THE POOR

The task of the church is to announce 'liberation from everything that oppresses humanity'. Evangelii Nuntiandi 9

Christians are called to share in Christ's mission. This involves doing something concrete for the poor. It also makes us ask: Why is the situation like this? What can we do about it?

Many of us feel called to work for justice or care for people because of compassion for the poor or anger at injustice and unnecessary suffering.

In St Matthew's Gospel, Jesus reminds us: "As often as you did it for one of the least of my brothers, you did it for me." Mt 25:40

Pope Francis said: "As long as the problems of the poor are not radically resolved by rejecting the absolute autonomy of the markets and financial speculation and by attacking the structural causes of inequality, no solution will be found for the world's problems or to any problems".



EXERCISE: "Inequality is the root of all ills" said Pope Francis. List ways that inequality can be the root of all ills.



Figure 1 Children at Koramangala Slum Centre, Bangalore

THE WORD OF GOD: Read and discuss the following passages from your Bibles

- James 5:4
- 1 John 3:17
- 1 Timothy 5:18
- Ephesians 4:28
- Acts 2:44
- Matthew 6:24

REFLECTIONS: Note some thoughts that come to mind

GROUP EXERCISE:

Who suffers economic injustice in my community?

Have I done anything this week to fix this injustice?

ACTION: What will I do next week?
