

Social Justice Resources for Youth

Elementary/Junior: Grades Pre-K to 8

To Act Justly: Introducing Catholic Social Teaching to Children with Stories and Activities (Book) Neuberger, Anne E., Twenty-third Publications, 2002. Aims to help youngsters think, feel, and act with justice by using stories that illustrate the seven social justice principles, the teachings of Vatican II and the beatitudes. Creative activities develop compassion and apply what students have learned in enjoyable, concrete ways. (Grades K-2)

To Walk Humbly: Stories and Activities for Teaching Compassion and Justice (Book) Neuberger, Anne E., Twenty Third Publications, 2007. Offers fifty-five wonderful stories from around the world to help young Catholics connect with the social, environmental, and economic problems of children around the globe. It encourages them to accept and think of these children as family, as sisters and brothers. This is a great resource for catechetical leaders, catechists, parents, and Catholic school teachers. (Grades 5 to 8)

Taking Care of God's Gifts- Stewardship: A Way of Life (Book) Whitfiels, Laurie, Our Sunday Visitor, 2003. This workbook is packed with fun and games designed, market-tested, and proven to help every child begin to see himself or herself as a steward of God's incredible and unique gifts. Puzzles, stories, and more help youngsters begin to develop that "attitude of gratitude". (Grades K-2)/(3-5).

One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference (Book) Milway, Katie Smith, Kids Can Press, 2008. Based on a true story, tells of how a poor Ghanaian boy buys a chicken through a community loan program, which eventually helps lift him, his mother, and his community out of poverty. (Grades K-5)

The Gift (Book) Morneau, Robert F., Paulist Press, 1995. Angela the pumpkin explains to her friend Sammy the rabbit the environmental secrets that have allowed her to grow lovely and special, with the help of the soil, the sun, and the rain, and then she agrees to sacrifice herself for the good of others around her. (Grades 1-4)

A Child of God: Stories of Jesus and Stewardship Activities for Children (Book) Caduto, Michael J., Paulist Press, 2005. Bridges faith in the wisdom of Jesus Christ with a deep caring for the natural world and all our brothers and sisters. Stories from the New Testament take children on a journey through the miracles and adventures of Jesus' life as a guide for living in a connected way with all of Creation. Provides reflections and activities that serve as stepping stones for growing children's faith, for exploring and strengthening their relationship to nature and humankind, and for giving thanks. (Grades 2-6)

Works of Mercy (VHS, 15 min.) Cronin, Gaynell Bordes, Paulist Press, 1992. Through powerful visual imagery, the works of mercy are explored to help children in grades four through seven come to know what it means to reach out to others with the compassion of Christ. (Grades 4-7)

A Child's View of Community (DVD, 10 min.) St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2001. Describes how a child can see the Spirit of Jesus Christ at work in the life of the Church. For the Christian, Church is much more than a building. The local parish is the young person's most direct contact with the Church community. Here a child discovers, through instruction and modeling, how to live and grow as a member of the Body of Christ and celebrate that life with others. This video helps children see that "my Church" is broader than "my parish". (Grades 1-4)



**United States Conference of Catholic
Bishops
Catholic Social Teaching**

Resources for Educators for All Ages from
elementary to adult small groups

<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/foreducators.shtml>

**Columban Fathers Websites for Mission
Education Resources**

Vinny's New Day: Preschool & Kindergarten

Come Journey with Jesus: K-6

As Water in the Desert: High School & Adult

<http://columban.org/>

High School: Grades 9-12



Activities for Catholic Social Teaching: A Resource Guide for Teachers & Youth Ministers (Book) McGinnis, James B., Ave Maria Press, 2006. Providing unique, hands-on applications for teenagers, *Activities for Catholic Social Teaching* offers a chance for teens to put into action the Church's body of social teaching. Consistent with the formula that action as a part of justice is a gospel value; each unit involves activities that motivate teenagers to do something to effect change.

Justice and Service Ideas for Ministry with Young Teens (Book) Grant, Joseph, Saint Mary's Press Christian Brothers Publications, 2000. A collection of 21 strategies for short- and long-term service projects, outreach activities, learning exercises, and discussion-starters aimed at challenging young teens to live out the Gospel mandate and the Church's call to serve others and build a just society, one person at a time

Living Justice and Peace (Book) 2nd ed. Saint Mary's Press, 2008. Empowers students to examine society critically based on values from the Scriptures and on the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching. The text addresses specific topics including abortion, capital punishment, racism, poverty, the environment, and peace. True stories of adults and teens who have experienced injustice or have transformed the world through acts of justice inspire students to reflect on their own ability to make a difference.

Faith Works Across the USA (DVD, 60 min.) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2004. There are tapestries of ways in which Catholics live out their faith. This video looks at several Catholic communities and people across the United States who represent the breadth, depth and diversity of Catholic ministry in the nation, from a Jesuit astronomer to a restaurateur who teaches job skills to inner city youth.

In the Footsteps of Jesus: Catholic Social Teaching at Work Today (DVD, 28 min.) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2003. Organized in two segments, part one provides a comprehensive overview of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching and a brief scriptural and historical context for its development. In part two seven different speakers illustrate each of the themes as they share their personal stories of injustice in their lives and the actions that they took. The USCCB book, *In the Footsteps of Jesus, Resource Manual on Catholic Social Teaching*, is included with this video as a study guide.

Spirit and Community: Spirit Alive in Community/ Teen Discipleship (DVD, 32 min.) Anthony Messenger Press, 2001. The first of these two programs profiles a real parish, looking at the ways the Holy Spirit is visibly active in the lives of Christians when they celebrate, worship, learn and serve together as members of the Body of Christ. The second program captures for Catholic youth how their baptismal commitment comes alive in service to others and looks at the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Teacher Resources

Go and Do Likewise: Catholic Social Teaching in Action (Book) Crosthwaite, Mia Twenty-Third Publications, 2006. Discusses each of the principles of the Church's social teaching and then offers a wide range of creative ways to live them: in five minutes, ten minutes, and twenty minutes a day. An excellent resource for both individuals and groups, for peace and justice committees, for RCIA teams, catechists, teachers, and parish ministers.

Creative Connections for Catechists from A - Z: Catholic Social Teaching (Book) Schaeffler, Janet, Twenty-Third Publications, 2009. Offers catechists creative ways to focus on Catholic Social Teaching with those they teach. She assures them that this is not something difficult and mysterious, but rather a way of life we are called to live daily. Through it, she says, catechists are responding to the mandate to serve others and to develop relationships with people whose life experiences differ from their own. She says it is a way of living their baptism as disciples of Jesus. And, she describes all this from A to Z.

Journey to Justice: Transforming Hearts and Schools with Catholic Social Teaching (Book) Fourré, Constance, National Catholic Educational Association, 2003. A resource for educators who want to make Catholic identity and Catholic social thought an integral part of their teaching. It provides substantive and concrete guidance for integrating Catholic social justice education into the curriculum of Catholic schools.

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