

# Social Justice Resources

[Working For a Better World](#) (Woo, Carolyn) Our Sunday Visitor, 2015. An account not only of Dr. Woo's own life, but of the ongoing critical work of CRS in meeting the needs of the poor, the traumatized, and the needy throughout the world. From typhoon-flattened cities in the Philippines to earthquake-devastated Haiti, CRS is there before the TV cameras arrive and there after they leave. And there in over 100 countries-helping subsistence farmers and health-care workers, orphans and refugees-in those neglected places where the cameras never come. We must be "docile and attentive to the cry of the poor and to come to their aid," Pope Francis has said. And in doing so, Dr. Woo affirms, "we never know when or how we will encounter God." (S,A)

[Saints and Social Justice: A Guide to Changing the World](#) (Vogt, Brandon) Our Sunday Visitor, 2014. The church has always taught certain undeniable truths that can and should affect our society. But over the years, these teachings have been distorted, misunderstood, and forgotten. With the help of fourteen saints, it's time we reclaim Catholic social teaching and rediscover it through the lives of those who best lived it out. Follow in the saints' footsteps, learn from their example, and become the spark of authentic social justice that sets the world on fire. (S,A)

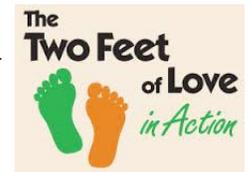


[On Care For Our Common Home \(Laudato Si\)](#) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015. Pope Francis draws all Christians into a dialogue with every person on the planet about our common home. We as human beings are united by the concern for our planet, and every living thing that dwells on it, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Pope Francis letter joins the body of the Church's social and moral teaching, draws on the best scientific research, providing the foundation for the ethical and spiritual itinerary that follows. Laudato Si outlines: The current state of our common home; The Gospel message as seen through creation; The human causes of the ecological crisis; Ecology and the common good; Pope Francis' call to action for each of us. (S,A)

[On Care for Our Common Home: Group Reading Guide](#) (Huebsch, Bill) Twenty-Third Publications, 2015. This guide offers a summary of every article in Pope Francis' groundbreaking document and a group reflection process to help everyone read it and understand it. The article numbers in the original are retained for ease in moving between the guide and the actual encyclical. The six small group sessions outlined here include group reading, discussion, prayer, and action suggestions (S,A)

[Drop by Drop](#) (USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development) Sister Mary Jerome's nephew Mike works for Catholic Relief Services. This is an organization that helps people throughout the world. Mr. Mike came to Sister's class and told the story of a village in the country of Burkina Faso, which is in Africa. The story is about a girl named Sylvie and how her village needed water. Sylvie is unable to attend school because it takes her several hours every day to collect the water her family needs. Sylvie eventually learns that her village has been chosen for a special Water Project. (P,I)

[Green Street Park](#) (USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development) This is a story about Philip who loves his neighborhood. However an area of the Green Street Park is in need of improvement. Philip learns about how St Francis of Assisi loved God's world and cared for it. His teacher, Sr. Mary Clare, challenges Philip to act as St Francis would. As you listen to the story, think about how you would feel and what you might do if you were Philip. (P,I)



[The Two Feet of Love in Action](#) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2013. This resource addresses how we as Christians can walk the path of love through addressing the concerns of social justice and supporting charitable work in the community. (A)

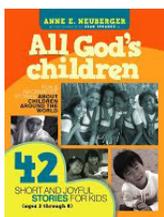
[10 Things Pope Francis Wants You to Know about the Environment](#) (Wright, Michael) Liguori Publications, 2016. Pope Francis made headlines when he penned his new encyclical, Laudato Si, and called on the world's people to protect God's creation. In this booklet, author Michael Wright identifies 10 key themes from the popular encyclical, explaining what they mean for everyday Catholics. (A)

[A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching](#) (McKenna, Kevin) Ave Maria Press, 2002. This practical guide to Catholic social teaching is a welcome resource for both church professionals and the person in the pew. Father Kevin McKenna, distills the major themes of Catholic social teaching that come to us in papal and episcopal writings. Each chapter concludes with a probing set of reflection/discussion questions. (A)

[Not As the World Gives: The Way of Creative Justice](#) (Caldecott, Stratford) Second Spring Publishing, 2014. This is the time for a new politics, a new economics. Not As the World Gives, drawing on the Church's two millennia of reflection on the Gospel, especially in the encyclicals from Rerum Novarum to Centesimus Annus, shows us the nature of society by showing us ourselves. We are beings created to give and receive -- called to "walk towards the true freedom that Christ taught us in the Beatitudes," as Pope Francis expressed it. (A)

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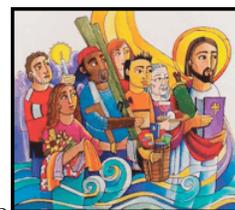
[Great Mystics and Social Justice: Walking on the Two Feet of Love](#) (Rakoczy, Susan) Paulist Press, 2006. Demonstrates that the fullness of the Christian life must include commitment to social justice by examining the lives of a number of Christian mystics and the implications their insights hold for contemporary Christians. (A)



[All God's Children: Fun & Informative Stories about Children Around the World](#) (Neuberger, Anne) Twenty-Third Publications, 2010. These delightful stories give children unique insights into the way other children live in far-off places like India, Turkey, China, Ethiopia, and Iraq. Each introduces exotic places and wonderful customs and traditions, and also offers guidelines for before reading the story, and questions, activities, and prayers for after reading the story. Neuberger's stories introduce children, parents, and teachers to Catholic Social Teaching in a simple yet profound way. She gently creates an awareness of our responsibility to one another as a human family and as God's family. Twenty-six of the stories are about individual children from diverse cultures and sixteen are based on cultural feasts and festivals from around the world. (P,I,J)

[Go and Do Likewise: Catholic Social Teaching in Action](#) (Crosthwaite, Mia) Twenty-Third Publications, 2006. In clear, concise language, the author 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. (S,A)

[Good News People: Bringing Hope in Hard Times](#) Just Faith Ministries, 2012. Good News People is a fourteen-session program (seven sessions in the fall and seven sessions in the spring) designed for small groups (10 groups of 10 participants). The Good News People Program emphasizes the privilege and invitation for us to become vessels of God's hope-filled presence in the world and the "Good News" that, with God's grace, we have the power to change the world for the better. The program is a dynamic process engaging sacred scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, readings and reflections, and Church teaching. The purpose of the program is to communicate hope, love, and possibilities found in a faithful commitment to be "Good News" in the world today. (A)



[The Social Teaching of Pope Francis](#) (Audio CD) CSC Digital Media, 2014. Pope Francis has captivated those both within and outside of the Catholic Church with his sense of open engagement. For many, he represents a new beginning and thus has created a renewed interest in Catholicism. This session will explore Pope Francis' teachings on social justice issues. We will discover how he is deeply rooted in the long history of prior Catholic social teaching, and consider the new emphases and challenges he offers to people of faith living in an unjust world. (A)

[Leadership & Social Justice: How Catholic Schools Can Change Our World](#) (Audio CD) CSC Digital Media, 2013. Catholic schools are places where students can become leaders for a lifetime. Starting with kindergarteners, this dynamic presentation demonstrates how children who are taught the power of a "Social Justice" mind, the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" and "Effective Behavioral Supports" can change the culture of a school and change the world. With practical examples, and a step-by-step process, you will learn how to support the current culture of your school and invite every child to the practice of effective leadership skills filled with hope. (A)

[The Man Who Planted Trees](#) (DVD) The Video Project, 2004. Tells the story of a solitary shepherd who patiently plants and nurtures a forest of thousands of trees, single-handedly transforming his arid surroundings into a thriving oasis. Undeterred by two World Wars, and without any thought of personal reward, the shepherd tirelessly sows his seeds and acorns with the greatest care. A landscape that seemed condemned grows green again. A film of great beauty and hope, this story is a remarkable parable for all ages and an inspiring testament to the power of one person. A beautifully animated parable about how the power of determination can turn a desert into an oasis. (I,J,SA)



[A Place at the Table](#) (DVD) Magnolia Home Entertainment, 2013. 50 million people in the U.S. - one in four children - don't know where their next meal is coming from, despite our having the means to provide nutritious, affordable food for all Americans. Directors Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush examine this issue through the lens of three people who are struggling with food insecurity: Barbie, a single Philadelphia mother who grew up in poverty and is trying to provide a better life for her two kids; Rosie, a Colorado fifth-grader who often has to depend on friends and neighbors to feed her and has trouble concentrating in school; and Tremonica, a Mississippi second-grader whose asthma and health issues are exacerbated by the largely empty calories her hardworking mother can afford. (S,A)

[Dorothy Day: Don't Call Me a Saint](#) (DVD) One Lucky Dog Productions, 2007. Tells the story of the New York writer and social reformer. The film begins at the height of the Depression with Dorothy meeting the French peasant philosopher, Peter Maurin. Together they created the Catholic Worker, a peace and justice movement that persists to this day in hospitality houses and soup kitchens around the world. (S,A)