

## Chapter 23

*A Just World*

Turn from evil, and do good; seek peace, and follow after it.  
*Psalm 34:15*

**For the Parents:**

In chapter 23 your child learned to:

- Envision his or her role in creating a just world
- Pledge to work with others for justice and solidarity

The laws of Israel commanded farmers not to harvest their grain, olives, or grapes completely. What was left in the field or vineyard was to be gleaned by the poor, resident aliens, orphans, and widows (*Leviticus 19:9–10; Deuteronomy 24:19–22*).

When a large crowd followed Jesus to a deserted place, his heart was moved with pity for them (*Matthew 14:14*). He blessed five loaves and two fish. When his disciples distributed the food, all ate and were satisfied. This is the only miracle of Jesus that is recounted in all four gospels! Nonetheless, when the leftovers were gone, the people became hungry again. This miracle must be repeated continually.

Catholic social teaching stems from the mission of Jesus. Social justice means more than an occasional service project. It requires a firm belief in the dignity of each person and the kinship of all people.

**With Your Child:**

1. Go on a family shopping trip. Take a walk through a mall or discount store. Point out all the things you do *not* need. Make your only purchase one necessary food, clothing, or household item to donate to a shelter for families.
2. As a family, imagine that you have just won the Heavenly Treasures Lottery – ten million dollars! Of course, you must use the money to do good on earth and help others. Together, decide how you will use the riches.
3. Read about Saint Basil on the Review and Explore page.