

## Grade Two

### What does it mean to work for social justice?

It is important to realize that working for social justice takes more than simply dropping off a few canned goods at the food pantry around Christmas time. Choosing justice should be a choice to work for changes that provide long-term solutions, not just making something better for the moment. That is the difference.

### Seven Principles of Social Mission

Within the Catholic understanding of justice, there are seven underlying principles that may help you recognize situations that you would like to see changed.

1. **Dignity of the human person**—All people are sacred.
2. **Call to community and participation** – The human person is a social being, one part of the human family.
3. **Rights and responsibilities** – All people have fundamental rights and responsibility to respect those rights in others.
4. **Option for the poor**—Society's most vulnerable members must be treated with equality.
5. **Dignity of work**-- People have the right to work and earn fair wages.
6. **Solidarity**--We are one human family called to work for justice.
7. **Care for God's creation** – We have the responsibility to care for the goods of the earth as gifts from God

Here are some grade level activities that will:

- Help raise the children's awareness of certain social issues
  - Provide an opportunity for children to integrate a sense of God's justice into their own lives
  - Encourage the children to participate in a process of long term change for the common good of all.
1. Teach the class how they can conserve by making their own wrapping paper from newspaper and scrap paper. You might want to connect this to a lesson about Noah, the rainbow and God's covenant. Perhaps the students could make a covenant with God that they will always care for God's creation. Show the children how they can use the length of a crayon to color a broad line on a sheet of newspaper. Then provide some bits of colored scrap paper to add accents. Yarn and ribbon can be used for making bows.
  2. Invite the students to take a vow of peace at the beginning of the school year and remember that pledge throughout the year. Print the pledge in large letters and post it somewhere in your classroom. The children can cross their arms across their heart when reciting the pledge.

**From deep in my heart, I pledge to be a peaceful person.  
I will try to not use harsh words when I speak  
And be gentle when I work and play.**