

## Grade Three

### 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. Invite the students to adopt a grandparent. This would be an elderly person for whom they could make and send a card or note on special days. The elderly person could be a grandparent or someone from the parish or senior home nearby. Talk with the students about the dignity of each person and how those who are elderly need friends, too. God loves us all and asks us to love others.
  2. Choose one week at the start of the year to ask the students to monitor their own use of electricity and water at home. Ask them to become more aware of ways they could reduce their use. Do they turn the water off when they are brushing their teeth or do they let it run until they are done? Do they turn the light off when they leave a room? Ask the children to write down ways they think they could conserve resources in the future.