



Catholic Social Teaching #3 Rights and Responsibilities

***(Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.)**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Luke 16:19-31**

After the reading, conclude with this prayer: *Loving God, help us do everything we can to build a society where all people are able to exercise their human rights and fulfill their responsibilities. Amen.*

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. As you reflect on this passage, do you find yourself connecting more with Lazarus or the rich man? Why?

YouTube Video: CST 101|Rights and Responsibilities (3:29 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPB6sXj6Fwo>

Leader please read these pages after the video: - St. John XXIII, Peace on Earth (Pacem in Terris), no. 11

“We must speak of man's rights. Man has the right to live. He has the right to bodily integrity and to the means necessary for the proper development of life, particularly food, clothing, shelter, medical care, rest, and, finally, the necessary social services. In consequence, he has the right to be looked after in the event of ill health; disability stemming from his work; widowhood; old age; enforced unemployment; or whenever through no fault of his own he is deprived of the means of livelihood.”

And - St. John XXIII, Peace on Earth (Pacem in Terris), no. 30

“In human society one man's natural right gives rise to a corresponding duty in other men; the duty, that is, of recognizing and respecting that right. Every basic human right draws its authoritative force from the natural law, which confers it and attaches to it its respective duty. Hence, to claim one's rights and ignore one's duties, or only half fulfill them, is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other.”

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think that Catholic Church social teaching indicates that the basic right to life is the foundation that cannot be taken away? Do you agree?
2. Where do you see or hear about rights being violated in your community or around the world?
3. Whose responsibility do you think/feel it is to ensure these rights are protected or fulfilled?
4. Did the video change your thoughts/feelings about your own responsibility to help “shape your own destiny and the destinies of others in ways that reflect the basic dignity that God has given us.”?
5. Have you ever experienced a call to help the needs of others in your community?
6. How might God be inviting you to advocate to protect the rights you feel most passionate about, and to ensure that corresponding duties are fulfilled?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Read sections 11-17 and 26-30 of Pacem in Terris
- Pray about how God may be inviting you to get involved or support the basic foundational right to life. After praying about this, take one action step based on how God is leading you.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) Please pray this prayer together.

Prayer of the Other text can be found here: <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/prayer-other>

This outline was created with resources taken Catholic Relief Services from <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/CST-101>