



Catholic Social Teachings

Purpose: While the public knows from Scripture that we should help the poor and oppressed as Christians, they are often not aware of the official teachings from the Catholic Church. Over a dozen Church documents have been published outlining teachings and doctrine on social justice. This activity is designed to introduce students to Catholic Social Teachings so they can see the basis of how and why we should act on issues.

Duration: 30-35 minutes

Materials

Computer projector and attached Powerpoint file, "Catholic Social Teachings"
Chart Paper

Markers

Print-outs of the "10 Key Themes of Catholic Social Teaching" from the file listed above (i.e. slides 6 to 15 from the Powerpoint slideshow) – 2 copies of each slide:

- one copy to give to each group as instructed
- one copy to put on the wall for everyone to see

Instructions

1. Tell the students they are going to learn about Catholic Social Teachings and show the first five slides of the PowerPoint to give a brief introduction to the topic (i.e. up to and including the slide on "See, Judge, Act"). If you have no projector then you can present the slides orally or using printouts.
2. Tell students there are 10 key themes of Catholic Social Teaching and divide the class into 10 groups.
3. Distribute only one copy of each key theme (print-out from the slideshow) to each group. (Save the other copy of key themes for Step 5)
4. Tell each group that you will put the 10 key themes on the wall where everyone can read it. Then each group must present the key theme they've been given either as a skit (charades) or through images (Pictionary). After their presentation the rest of the class will guess which key theme they represented.
5. Give the groups 5-10 minutes to prepare. While they prepare you can put the key themes on the front wall.
6. Groups can volunteer to present. After each presentation the class can guess, then review the key theme from the wall, highlighting it's meaning

and significance. Remember, after each presentation to encourage the audience to give an enthusiastic round of applause (you can use the “You’re Awesome” model suggested in the Facilitator’s Notes at the beginning of this package).