

Justice

The Church has the right, indeed the duty, to proclaim justice on the social, national and international level, and to denounce instances of injustice, when the fundamental rights of man and his very salvation demand it. The Church...has a proper and specific responsibility which is identified with her mission of giving witness before the world of the need for love and justice contained in the Gospel message, a witness to be carried out in church institutions themselves and in the lives of Christians.

-Justice in the World, Statement of the World Synod of Catholic Bishops (November 30, 1971), no. 36 (Vatican council II)

Charity cannot take the place of justice unfairly withheld.

PiusXI, Quadragesimo Anno no. 137

Love for others, and in the first place love for the poor, in whom the Church see Christ himself, is made concrete in the promotion of justice. *The Hundredth Year*, #58, p. 108

One of the greatest injustices in the contemporary world consists precisely in this: that the ones who possess much are relatively few and those who possess almost nothing are many. It is the injustice of the poor distribution of the goods and services originally intended for all. *On Social Concern*, #28.

The way society responds to the needs of the poor through its public policies is the litmus test of its justice or injustice. *Economic Justice for All*, #123.

According to the Christian message, therefore, man's relationship to his neighbour is bound up with his relationship to God ... Christian love of neighbour and justice cannot be separated. For love implies an absolute demand for justice, namely a recognition of the dignity and rights of one's neighbour. Justice attains its inner fullness only in love. Synod of Bishops, **Justice in the World** (*Justitia in Mundo*), 1971