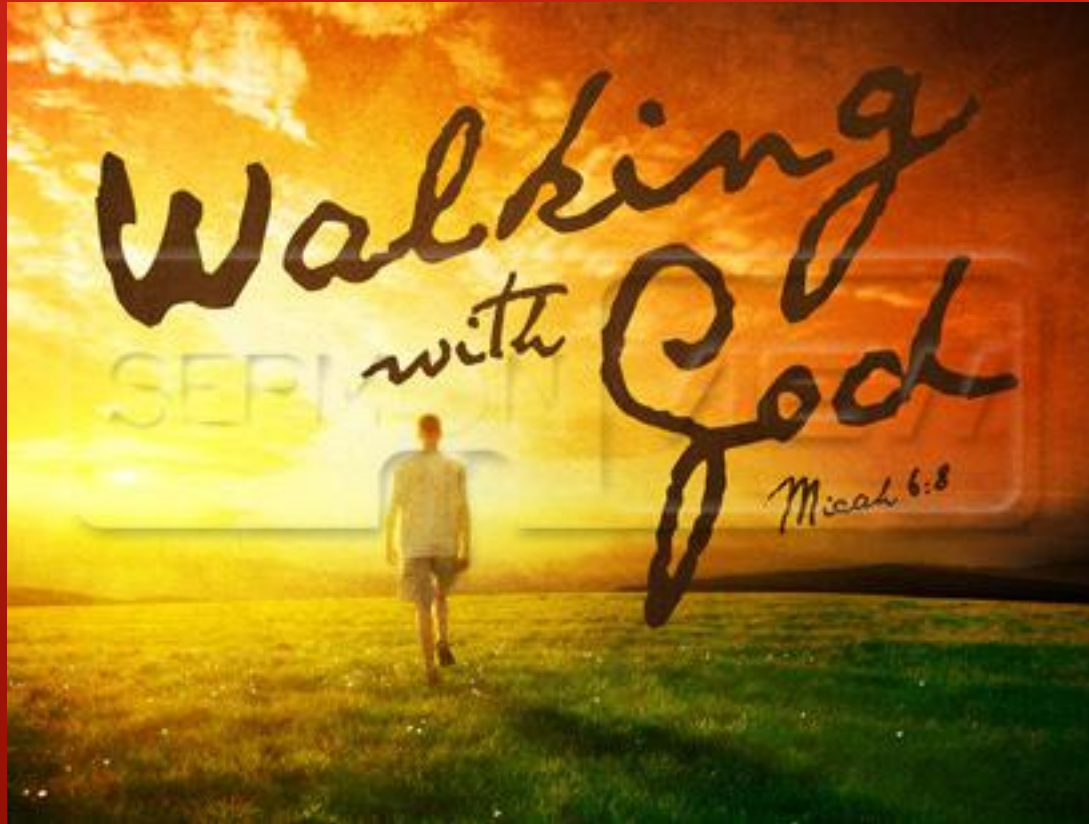


Walking Humbly With Our God



Living Prophetic Lives In Our Broken World

By: Rachel Ramjattan rramjattan@ccadm.org

Micah 6:8

“And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and
to love mercy and
to walk humbly with your God.”

Scriptural Foundations of Catholic Social Teaching

- Charity AND Justice
- The story of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37
 - Met immediate needs
 - Private, individual acts
 - Direct service, often repeated
 - Actions directed at symptoms

- The Gospel story does not attempt to survey the causes of highway banditry. Rather the Samaritan provides temporary and immediate relief.



Acting Justly

- What is Justice?
 - River babies
- The Exodus Story – Exodus 3:7-12, 7:6-7
 - Moses' Message: "Let my people go."
 - Actions directed at the root cause
 - Public, collective actions
 - Address long-term needs
 - Promotes social change in institutions
 - Resolves structural injustices



How Do We Act Justly?

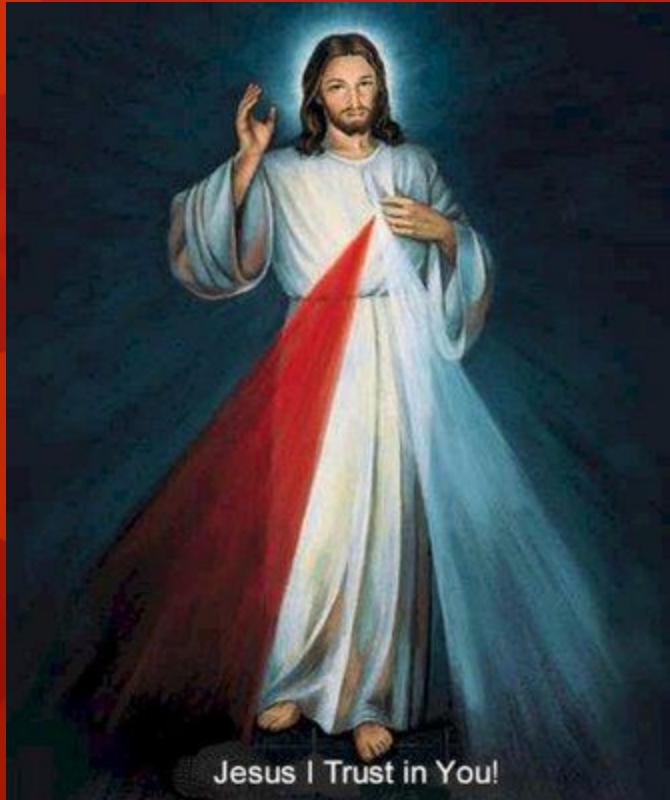
***"Charity will never be true charity
unless it takes justice into account ...***

***Let no one attempt with small gifts of charity
to exempt themselves from the great duties
imposed by justice."***

Pope Pius XI, *Divini Redemptoris* , #49

We have to move out of our comfort zones. We must study injustices through the lens of Scripture, rather than our own eyes which seek to protect our own interests.

To Love Mercy



- We must first recognize that we have received mercy.
- No one deserves mercy. It is a gift.
- Loving mercy means being willing to act in a loving way, often towards people who we think do not deserve it.
- Loving mercy is a conscious choice, not a feeling.
- We all participate in social sin.

Examining Root Causes

Global Poverty & Trade

- Auto repair bills
- \$ Store Impact
- NAFTA
- Starbucks



Fair Trade Solution

- Community based cooperatives
- Farmers paid a fair price
- Certification process
- Why pay more?
- What you can do.
- <http://www.crsfairtrade.org/>

Examining Root Causes

Domestic Poverty

- Myths
- Many drivers of domestic poverty:
 - Unemployment
 - Institutionalized prejudice in educational funding formulas

Solutions

- Remove incentives for companies to outsource jobs overseas.
- Improve educational opportunities for poor communities.
- Living wage legislation
- www.povertyusa.org

Examining Root Causes

Slave Labor

- Farmworkers
- Hotel/salon workers
- Sex trade
- Racial profiling

Immigration

- Broken immigration system
- Imbalance between economy's demand for low-wage labor and the quota for guest workers



Debunking the Myths

Myth

- Immigrants are a drain on the economy.
- Immigrants don't pay taxes.

Facts

- Without guest workers the economy would lose \$9 billion/yr in agricultural production and 20 % of production would go overseas.
- 50-75% undocumented immigrants pay state and federal taxes, Medicare taxes and \$7 billion/yr to the Social Security Fund. They also pay sales and property taxes.

Debunking the Myths

Myth

- Undocumented immigrants are a burden on the U.S. Healthcare system.
- Immigrants take jobs away from American citizens.

Fact

- Government spends \$1.1 billion/yr (\$11 in taxes per US household) on healthcare for undocumented immigrants, aged 18-64. They spent \$88 billion on health care for non-elderly U.S. adults in 2000.
- The # of American low wage earners is declining though the economy still needs them. Immigrants are offsetting that decline.

The Church's Position Love Mercy

- Why get involved?
- The Holy Family were migrants too. What if they had not been welcomed in Egypt?
 - Marginalization of immigrants, loss of dignity
 - Family separation
 - Essential jobs unfilled without immigrant labor
 - Deaths due to poor border enforcement



The Church's Position Love Mercy

- We do not condone unlawful immigration
- We advocate for comprehensive immigration reform that
 - Provides sufficient guest worker visas to meet demand
 - Increases the number of lawful visas for relatives to eliminate family separations of 20 years or more

How Does God See Our World?



“For those who have seen the Earth from space, and for the hundreds and perhaps thousands more who will, the experience most certainly changes your perspective.

The things that we share in our world are far more valuable than those which divide us.”

- *Donald Williams, USA*

Walking Humbly With Our God

- Making decisions based on the common good rather than our own personal interests
- Choosing to decrease so others can increase
- Join advocacy networks (Catholics Confront Global Poverty, NETWORK Lobby, etc.)
- Host Fair Trade sales to educate others
- Read books about solving injustice
 - How Much Is Enough? by Arthur Simon
 - Unexpected News by Robert McAfee Brown

Keep In Touch!

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- Publish “Justice Corner” in your parish’s bulletin.