

# Justice Corner

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## February 1, 2015

### Authority & Action

Today's Gospel speaks of Jesus' authority to teach. Today, the Magisterium of the Catholic Church continues to teach. The Holy Father's speeches, and papal encyclicals provide wisdom on pressing issues of our times.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) helps us to understand moral and political issues by examining proposed legislation through the lens of Scripture and Catholic social teaching. USCCB advocacy alerts explain how proposed legislation will impact people who are poor or vulnerable and provide talking points for speaking with legislators.

Jesus calls each of us to act on His authority, as His hands and feet. We, like Moses, are called to live prophetic lives to build God's Kingdom here on earth. And the Church equips us with resources to advocate for others.

Do you receive advocacy alerts? Join a Catholic Advocacy Alert list today so you can learn how easy it is to urge elected officials to build a just society.

Learn more at [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/get-involved](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/get-involved)

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## February 8, 2015

### Work and Health

Today's readings address two requirements for the life and dignity of every human being: work and health. Job described the plight of workers treated like slaves and Simon's mother-in-law needed healing.

Millions of our brothers and sisters here and abroad, work in slave-like conditions for low wages with little access healthcare. Many people suffer chronic ailments that cause severe hardships. God wants all his children to have work that pays enough to provide for the basic needs of families and access to healthcare and healing.

Low wage earners and people living with chronic illness need our help. How do you assist people who are homebound or need help making ends meet?

God wants us to be instruments of healing! Cook a meal someone who is sick/homebound, buy groceries for a food pantry, or learn how you can partner with Catholic Charities to help people who are poor and vulnerable. More information at [www.ccadm.org](http://www.ccadm.org)

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## February 15, 2015

### Power to Heal Us

Today's Scriptures reminds us that some diseases, like leprosy, have social consequences. In Biblical times, lepers were ostracized from their communities and forced to identify themselves as being unclean. Thankfully, the Scriptures do not force us to expose the wounds of our souls in such a public way. Yet, sins like gossip, slander, hatred, and violence often lurk within us producing social consequences like animosity, divisions, prejudice, impatience, broken relationships, abuse, etc.

The Gospel reminds us that Jesus has the power to heal us. The Sacraments have the power to heal us – especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus can bring us back into right relationships with others if we ask for his help.

Think about difficult or broken relationships in your life. How might you have contributed to the strain? Then, like the leper, go to Our Lord and ask Him to heal your wounded soul so that you might be reconciled with your enemies.

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## February 22, 2015

### Lenten Traditions

Today's readings show us the lengths to which God will go to save us. He established a Covenant with Noah, sent Jesus to pay for our sins, and protects us from being overcome by temptations. He has a tradition of coming to our aid!

Lent is a time to reflect on the temptations we face and develop strategies for overcoming them. We are more likely to succeed if our actions have a social dimension. One temptation we all face is "busyness". Too often our lives become so hectic that we have no time to think of others.

Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl program teaches prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This Lent, consider adopting a new tradition. Visit [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org) to find meatless recipes from countries around the world. Then prepare these recipes as a family and take a virtual tour of life in that country. Place the money you save by eating a meatless dinner in the rice bowl. By the end of Lent you'll be able to make a special donation to help people around the world.