

CONFIRMATION FAITH SHARING PROJECT #4: WE ARE THE WORLD

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE:

SPONSOR/MENTOR'S SIGNATURE:

DATE YOU MET TO DISCUSS:

BEFORE MEETING WITH YOUR SPONSOR: *This month you will be filling out the worksheet together.*  
Candidate phones sponsor and schedules a 60-90 minute meeting time and gives sponsor a copy of this project.  
Items needed: project, pen or pencil, Bible.

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*Let's Get Together*

\*\*\*\*Reminder

Remind each other about confidentiality and trust: what is shared here stays here.

\*\*\*\*Back Up a Moment

Share about the time you spent this past month in prayer, alone, and with silence. What was easy about it?  
What was hard? Did you have more inner or outer distractions?

\*\*\*\*Opening Prayer

Prayer for Peace and Justice

God, source of all light,  
we are surrounded by the darkness of  
the injustices experienced by your people,  
the poor who are hungry and who search for shelter,  
the sick who seek relief,  
and the downtrodden who seek help in their hopelessness.

Surround us and fill us with Spirit who is Light.  
Lead us in your way to be light to your people.  
Help our parish to be salt for our community  
as we share your love with those caught in the struggles of life.

We desire to be your presence to the least among us  
and to know your presence in them as we work through you  
to bring justice and peace to this world  
in desperate need. AMEN.

*From Communities of Salt and Light, Parish Resource Manual*

\*\*\*\*Focus Question

How many friends do you have among the poor? (poor in money, poor in spirit, poor in happiness)

*Heart of the Matter*

\*\*\*\*We are the World

Fill in the attached **We Are the World** worksheet together.

*Tell It Like It Is* (Faith-sharing) *Candidates, please fill in your answers.*

Share on your responses to the We Are the World worksheet.

\*\*\*\*Item #1: Why do the problems of today sometimes feel so overwhelming that you think there is nothing you can do?

\*\*\*\*Item #2: Should the church involve itself in only meeting people's spiritual needs rather than promoting peace and justice issues? Why or Why not?

\*\*\*\*Item #3: God does want His people to be involved in helping others. We may not be able to solve all the world's problems, but God can use us to touch others' lives. We are called to forgiveness, love and mercy because this is how GOD relates to us, and we are called to be like God. Share a time when someone helped you through a problem or treated you with forgiveness, love and mercy.

\*\*\*\*Item #4: How can you "move" from where you are at now to where you would like to be?

\*\*\*\*Item #5: What does the Bible say about peace and justice?

\*\*\*\*Item #6: Based on your answers, how aware are you of social justice?

\*\*\*\*Item #7: Pick three of the statements and defend your point of view on each. In other words, "take a stand" for your position. Then, looking over all your answers, how can you show a special responsibility to the poor?

\*\*\*\*Item #8: *"If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then, come, follow me."* Matt 19:21. This is an important passage from Scripture. How is it relevant in today's world?

**Additional Food for Thought:** If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

There would be 57 Asians,  
21 Europeans,  
14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south,  
8 Africans,  
52 would be female,  
48 would be male,  
70 would be non-white,  
30 would be white,  
70 would be non-Christian,  
30 would be Christians,  
89 would be heterosexual,  
11 would be homosexual,  
6 people would own 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States,  
80 would live in substandard housing,  
70 would be unable to read,  
50 would suffer from malnutrition,  
1 would be near death,  
1 would be near birth,  
1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education, and  
1 would own a computer.

*Source: News and Notes, 2/00*

When you consider our world from such a compressed perspective, what do you feel that our role in it is?

#### \*\*\*Jesus and Justice

Jesus insists that his disciples go beyond "fairness" to justice, to relationships that are based on people's rights, rights that are rooted in the human beings' dignity as a son/daughter of God: the right to life, food, drink, shelter, health care, education, faith, hope, love, mercy. "Rights" are not "privileges." Privileges are earned or freely given by those who have the power to grant them...rights are part of our human nature...we do not need to "earn" them, nor can anyone really "take them away" (although they can deny, ignore, or violate them).

Read the Gospel according to Luke 16:19-31

There is a parable or story about justice. Why? Whose rights are being violated?

What does justice require here?

#### \*\*\*Project Summary

Jesus' justice requires that Christians care about the abuse of poor people for the benefit of rich people. Jesus does not want us to become paralyzed with guilt because we are wealthy compared with the poorest of the earth. But the scriptures remind us that the life choices we make matter, and that those choices may either contribute to a more just world or support a status quo that keeps rich people comfortable and poor people down. To make good life choices, we must educate ourselves about the situations that cause poverty, and examine how our own lifestyle or beliefs might unintentionally contribute to the misery of those who are poor.

Why is Jesus' brand of justice so difficult for us?

## What Can We Do?

You are called to ACTION! Choose one of the suggestions below or think of another on your own that relates to this topic. Note: You will discuss results of your action with your sponsor when you meet for your next project.

### \*\*\*Suggestions:

- Make a list of items and possessions around your house that you don't need. Give some of them away.
  
- Participate in the parish's Advent Angel Tree project. Spend your own money to buy the gifts.
  
- Take time to reflect on justice in our lives by consciously and critically reading the newspaper. Clip a couple articles to share with your sponsor when you meet next month. Note what the issue is, whose rights are being violated and how, and what justice requires in each situation. Also, what is one practical way you can address or correct this situation, or prevent it in your own life?
  
- Other

## Going With God

### \*\*\*Closing Prayer

#### ***People for People***

*I was hungry...you formed a humanities club and discussed my hunger. Thank you.  
I was imprisoned...and you crept off quietly to your chapel in the cellar and prayed for my release.  
I was naked...and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.  
I was sick...and you knelt and thanked God for your health.  
I was homeless...and you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love of God.  
I was lonely...and you left me alone to pray for me.*

*You seem so Holy, so close to God.*

*But I am still very lonely, and hungry, and cold!*  
Author Unknown

## Looking Back

### \*\*\*Complete these sentences:

One thing I learned about my sponsor/candidate during this session is...

One thing I discovered about myself during this session is....

After this session, one thing I like about the Catholic Church is....

The sponsor keeps his/her copy of this project. The candidate turns in his/her copy of this project at the next class.

# WE ARE THE WORLD

1. If you could do one thing to make the world a better place, what would you do?

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2. Which of the following should Christians be most concerned about? Choose five, ranking them from 1 (most concerned) to 5 (least concerned).

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|---|-----------------------|
| ___ Problems in Central America               | ___ Prayer in schools |
| ___ Poverty                                   | ___ Homosexuality     |
| ___ Violence on television                    | ___ Materialism       |
| ___ Racism                                    | ___ Abortion          |
| ___ Sexual exploitation of women and children | ___ Over population   |
| ___ Pornography                               | ___ Divorce           |
| ___ Crime                                     | ___ AIDS              |
| ___ Hunger                                    | ___ Child Abuse       |
| ___ Threat of nuclear war                     | ___ Terrorism         |
| ___ Other: _____                              | ___ Assisted Suicide  |

- |   | FOR SURE | NO WAY |
|---|----------|--------|
| a. One person cannot make a significant difference in today's society.                  | _____    | _____  |
| b. The world's problems will eventually be solved by science and technology.            | _____    | _____  |
| c. The world hunger situation is God's will, and we should not try to change it.        | _____    | _____  |
| d. The church can solve the problems of the world.                                      | _____    | _____  |
| e. The welfare system will eventually solve the problems of the poor.                   | _____    | _____  |
| f. The poor are responsible for their situation.  | _____    | _____  |
| g. The world's problems should not concern Christians because Christ is returning soon. | _____    | _____  |

4. Put an X on the line below indicating how much you think you are involved in making a difference in the world.

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None at all A lot

Now put an O on the line, indicating how much you would *like* to be involved in making a difference in the world.

5. Summarize **Matthew 25:31-46** in twenty words or less: \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Check each of the following statements that are true for you:

**I am aware...**

- \_\_\_\_\_ because I watch the nightly news on TV
- \_\_\_\_\_ because I read world events in the daily newspaper
- \_\_\_\_\_ because I read a news magazine each week (Time, Newsweek, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the workings of the welfare system in the U.S.
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the connection between defense and the nation budget (what percentage is spent)
- \_\_\_\_\_ of what "third world" means
- \_\_\_\_\_ of who my congressmen/women are
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the difficulties experienced by at least one minority group in my community
- \_\_\_\_\_ of what women's liberation is all about
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the victimization of youth by the media and advertising world
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the issues in the latest local or state election
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the arguments against capital punishment
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the meaning of "civil disobedience"

7. What do you think? A=Agree NS=Not Sure D=Disagree

- \_\_\_\_\_ As Americans, we deserve all we have.
- \_\_\_\_\_ People have the right to want to make as much money as they can.
- \_\_\_\_\_ People in poorer countries deserve some of what we have.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Money is the root of all evil.
- \_\_\_\_\_ People should share what they have with others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Being rich is a blessing from God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is sinful to spend a lot of money on yourself for things you don't really need.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is impossible to be materialistic without being rich.
- \_\_\_\_\_ No amount of wealth can ever fully ease my fear of not having enough.

8. Read the teaching in Matthew 19:21. What is your first reaction to this? \_\_\_\_\_

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