

# Faith in Action

## The Christian Call to Service

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*This is what God asks of you, and only this:*

*That you act justly,  
love tenderly,  
and walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)*

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*Our faith calls us to work for justice; to serve those in need; to pursue peace; and to defend the life, dignity, and rights of all our sisters and brothers. This is the call of Jesus, the challenge of the prophets, and the living tradition of our Church.*

*(Century of Catholic Social Teaching, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1990)*

The Catholic call to justice and service involves us as individuals, families and parish communities in actions of direct service and in efforts to address the causes of injustice and inequity. We are called as Church to help people survive their present need or crisis. We are called, too, to help change the systems and structures that make it impossible for people to catch up or get ahead.

### Reflecting on our Encounter with Christ through Service

#### Connecting with Experience

- ▶ What struck you most strongly? What happened?
- ▶ What images stand out in your mind? What sights and sounds, touches and smells? What experiences and conversations? Why did they make the impression they did?
- ▶ What was happening in your heart? What did you feel? What touched you most deeply today? Why? What did you find most frustrating? Most hopeful? Why?

#### Connecting with People

- ▶ What did you learn about the people you met? How is their experience most like yours? How is it different? How would you feel if you had to change places for a week? a year? Why?
- ▶ What did you learn about yourself today? What do you like about what you learned? What do you dislike and most want to change?

### **Connecting with Issues**

- ▶ How were justice and injustice present in the situations you faced today? Did you learn anything new about the causes of injustice and the changes that are necessary?
- ▶ How did your service involvement try to address your issue?

### **Connecting with Faith**

- ▶ How was God present in what happened within and around you? How were you God for others? How were others God for you? Where was the “holy” in what happened? Where was the “evil?”
- ▶ What did you discover about following Jesus? How did this service experience put into practice certain teachings or stories of Jesus?
- ▶ What new insights did you discover about why service is essential to the Christian life?

### **Connecting with the Future**

- ▶ What did you learn that will help you serve in the future?
- ▶ Did the service experience bring to mind anything that you might want to change about yourself, your priorities or how you live your life?

## **Closing Prayer**

Together let us pray the prayer of service from Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

At the end of life we will not be judged by  
how many diplomas we have received,  
how much money we have made,  
how many great things we have done.

We will be judged by  
“I was hungry and you gave me food to eat,  
I was naked and you clothed me  
I was homeless and you took me in.”

Hungry not only for bread—but for love  
Naked not only for clothing—but naked of human dignity and respect  
Homeless not only for want of a room of bricks—but homeless because of rejection.

This is Christ in distressing disguise.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta.