

Charity or Justice?

Both charity and justice are necessary to promote human rights. We are called to do both.

Charity focuses on immediate needs such as providing food, clothing, and shelter.

Justice looks at the cause of problems and works to remove them, such as unfair wages, housing shortages, and clothing made in sweatshops.



Study the examples below to determine if they are acts of charity or justice. On the line before each, write the correct word. Then add one example of a charitable act you could do and an act of justice.

1. Charity Collect canned foods for a local pantry.
2. Justice Write letters to congress about the need for affordable housing.
3. Charity Participate in a "food fast" retreat.
4. Charity Help serve meals in a homeless shelter.
5. Justice Participate in a parish program presenting information about just wages.
6. Charity Examples might include conducting a clothing drive, babysitting for free so someone can work, giving books to a homeless shelter, and the like.
7. Justice Examples might include handing out petitions to include low income housing in your area, asking merchants if products were made under sweatshop conditions, marching for fair housing, and the like

Parents and Catechists: Discuss the importance of being involved in issues of social justice. What can you do, as a family, to bring about fairness for others? Think of acts of charity and of justice. Work on implementing one of each.