

Suggested Uses

- In Parishes
 - ◆ Adult Faith Enrichment groups during Lent or Advent
 - ◆ Lenten programs – compare/contrast with Operation Rice Bowl reflections
 - ◆ RCIA groups
 - ◆ Adult Bible study groups
 - ◆ Basis for a social morality course
 - ◆ Confirmation classes
 - ◆ Personal reflection and prayer
- Theology on Tap gatherings
- In Schools
 - ◆ Junior and Senior High School religion and social issues classes
 - ◆ College and high school service learning programs
 - ◆ College and high school economics classes
- Ecumenical study and action groups
- JustFaith follow through sessions
- Business leader meetings
- Public policy leader deliberations
- Source of information for writing letters to editors and opinion columns

Please share your ideas about additional uses for these brochures by contacting the Conference.

You may download and duplicate the brochures from the Conference website. They are available in both color and black and white.

These PDF files can be opened using the free software available from www.adobe.com.

Sample Format for Adult Discussion

- Open with prayer: center the group's attention.
- Review the brochure being used.
- Readings: "The Church Teaches" section
- *Silent Reflection*
- Review "Focus on Kentucky" section.
- *Silent Reflection*
- Use questions from the "For Discussion and Reflection" section for the group discussion.
- Choose an individual or group action step.
- Wrap-up.
- Conclude with prayer with personal intentions.

Hints for Small Group Sharing

- Start on time.
- Assure that participants all know one another.
- Respect all participants. Maintain a respectful tone of voice.
- Expect DIFFERENT opinions.
- Keep the TOPIC in the center of a mental circle, participants on the circle's rim seeing different sides of the topic. We are applying teachings to daily economic life.
- Listen genuinely and actively.
- Keep it light: use humor.
- Invite participation: Make space for introverted people to reflect and then share with the group. Strive to hear from everyone. Remind extroverted people of the value of hearing from others.
- Ask participants to identify the weakest aspect of their viewpoint and the strongest aspect of the viewpoint of someone with whom they disagree.
- Conclude by giving each participant a chance to share how the session went. Try to summarize a list of common threads.
- End on time.

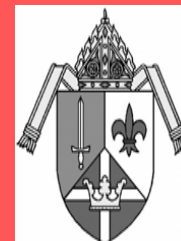


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Economic Justice
In
21st Century
Kentucky:
Holding Ourselves
Accountable

Resources
and
Suggested Uses



Resources

Economic Justice for All

Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy

U. S. Catholic Bishops, 1986

In the pastoral introduction to this letter, the bishops introduce six basic moral principles by which to judge our economic life and the standards it must meet. Kentucky's Bishops have used these principles in producing these pastoral brochures about economic life in 21st century Kentucky.

- Every economic decision and institution must be judged in light of whether it protects or undermines the dignity of the human person.
- Human dignity can be realized and protected only in community.
- All people have a right to participate in the economic life of society.
- All members of society have a special obligation to persons who are poor and vulnerable.
- Human rights are the minimum conditions for life in the community.
- Society as a whole, acting through public and private institutions, has the moral responsibility to enhance human dignity and protect human rights.

Helpful Web Resources

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities: <http://www.accunet.org/paj/>
Documents of Vatican II: http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index.htm
Economic Justice for All and other official Catholic documents: <http://www.osjspm.org/cst/doclist.htm>
Economic Research Service, US Dept of Agriculture: <http://www.ers.usda.gov>
Encyclicals and other papal documents: <http://www.vatican.va>
Kentuckians for the Commonwealth: <http://www.kftc.org>
Kentucky Jobs With Justice: <http://www.kyjwj.org>
Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center: <http://www.kltprc.net/studies1.htm>
Kentucky Youth Advocates: <http://www.kyyouth.org>
National Catholic Rural Life Conference: <http://www.ncrlc.com>
National Issues Forum: <http://www.nifi.org>
The Sentencing Project: www.sentencingproject.org
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: <http://www.usccb.org>

Helpful Print Resources

Catechism of the Catholic Church, SECOND EDITION, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Justice and Peace: A Christian Primer, J. Milburn Thompson, Orbis Books

Summer 2005

Dear People of God,

We are called to examine the "signs of the times" and to apply the Good News of Jesus in responding to them. As the 21st Century unfolds, people across Kentucky note that our Commonwealth's economy is changing rapidly and deeply. They recognize that economic factors drive many aspects of their personal and social lives.

In 1986 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops produced a pastoral letter, "Economic Justice for All," addressing the economic conditions of their times. That same year we bishops of Kentucky wrote "Faces of Poverty: Status of the Poor in Kentucky." Both documents echo Vatican II's document, *Gaudium et Spes*, of 40 years ago saying we have "an inescapable duty to make ourselves the neighbor of every person."

Building on these documents, we issue the following packet of brochures to continue the dialogue about the Gospel and economics. Rather than writing one long document, we chose this format for easy use in many settings.

The packet consists of eight brochures, one for each of the seven principles affirmed by the U.S. bishops regarding Catholic social teaching, plus a resource brochure. Each brochure contains concise information about one theme of our Church's social teaching with its foundation in Scripture, information about a sector of Kentucky's economy, plus resources and evocative questions for reflection and discussion. In a separate brochure we have listed several recommended ways to use the brochures pastorally. We are sending these brochures to every parish in Kentucky to continue the dialogue about the signs of the times and the call of the Gospel response.

May *Economic Justice in 21st Century Kentucky: Holding Ourselves Accountable* inspire a new commitment to respond to the needs of people in our midst who are poor and vulnerable. And, may they further God's Kingdom of love and justice in Kentucky.

Yours in Christ,

+Most Rev. Thomas C. Kelly, O.P.
Archbishop of Louisville
+Most Rev. John J. McRaith
Bishop of Owensboro
+Most Rev. Roger J. Foys
Bishop of Covington
+Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer
Bishop of Lexington