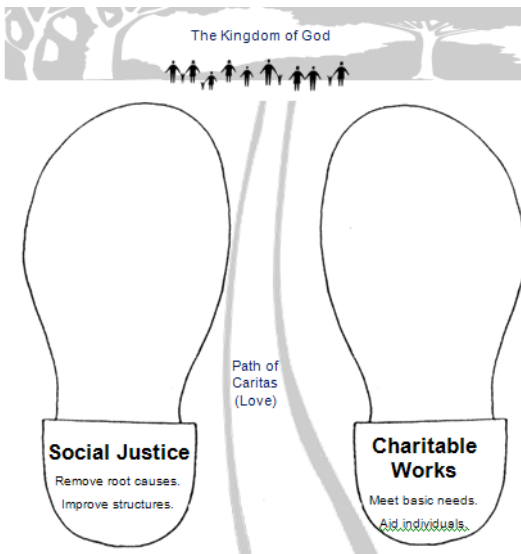


GRIST

Diocese of New Ulm Social Concerns Office January, 2012

Two Feet of Love in Action: Social Justice & Charitable Works

<http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/resources-and-tools.cfm>



There are two different, but complimentary, ways that we can act in response to God's love. We call these the *Two Feet of Love in Action*. These two feet – Social Justice and Charitable Works – allow us to walk the path of love, or *caritas*.

This pilgrimage of love is an ongoing, lifelong journey of growth. Just as our faith leads to action, our loving actions lead to new spiritual growth. This action is not taken alone, but together with others. In this way, we work to make God's kingdom present on earth.

The first "foot" is called *Social Justice*.

Pope Benedict XVI calls this the primary way of charity, or love, because: If we love others with charity, then first of all we are just towards them (Caritas in Veritate, no. 6).

We walk with the Social Justice foot by fostering peace and justice and seeking long-term change in local and global communities. We step with this foot when we work to remove the root causes of problems, when we support the efforts of low-income persons to transform their communities, when we advocate for just public policies, and when we help change the social structures that contribute to suffering and injustice at home and around the world.

The second "foot" is called *Charitable Works*.

Pope Benedict XVI describes this foot when he emphasizes, as part of our loving response to God, our action to attend constantly to man's sufferings and his needs, including material needs (Deus Caritas Est, no. 19).

We step with this foot when we work to aid or assist others both locally and globally to the meet their immediate, short-term needs. Examples include engaging in direct service or providing food, clothing, shelter, or monetary assistance to help those in need.

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EDUCATE

Benedict XVI's World Day of Peace Message
[http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/
messages/peace/index_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/index_en.htm)

Immigration Sunday, January 8
National Migration Week, January 8–14
<http://immigrationsundaymn.org>
[http://usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-
services/national-migration-week/](http://usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services/national-migration-week/)

January – Poverty Awareness Month
[www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-
human-development/povertyusa/](http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/povertyusa/)

USCCB Bulletin Inserts
highlighting the social dimensions of
Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation & Marriage:
[http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-
human-development/resources-and-tools.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/resources-and-tools.cfm);
[http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/roman-missal-
bulletin-insert-eucharist-and-social-mission.pdf](http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/roman-missal-bulletin-insert-eucharist-and-social-mission.pdf)

USCCB Respect Life Program
[http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-
activities/respect-life-program](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program)

ADVOCATE

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship
[with new Introductory Note]
[http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-
citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-
citizenship-document.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-document.cfm)

Minnesota Catholic Conference
www.mncc.org

U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
Legislative Action Center
[www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-
now/capwiz/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/capwiz/index.cfm)

USCCB – Conscience Protection
www.usccb.org/conscience

SHOW MERCY

Catholic Charities USA
www.catholiccharitiesusa.org

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
www.svdpusa.org

The Social Concerns Committee of the Holy Cross Area Faith Community (New Ulm, Searles, St. George and Lafayette) annually sponsors a *Seeds of Giving* project. In the spring, a basket, trellis or ornamental tree is placed in the entryway of each church. Garden seed packets, coupons redeemable at local nurseries (e.g. for onion sets), and donor envelopes are made available. Some parishioners plant the seeds or seedlings in their gardens, and donate the produce to the local foodshelf, throughout the summer and fall. Some make cash donations to the foodshelf.

SEEK JUSTICE

Catholic Campaign for Human Development
[www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-
human-development](http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development)

Catholic Network of Volunteer Service
www.cnvs.org

St. Vincent Pallotti Center
www.pallotticenter.org

USCCB – Catholics Confront Global Poverty
<http://old.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/>

USCCB – Unemployment & Poverty
[http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-
human-development/unemployment-and-
poverty.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/unemployment-and-poverty.cfm)