



iVoteCatholic

Option for the Poor & Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. The Church does not pit one social group against another but instead follows the example of Jesus, who identified with the poor and vulnerable (Mt 25: 31-46). Giving priority concern to the poor and vulnerable strengthens the health of the whole society. The human life and dignity of the poor are most at risk.

Church Teaching Quotes

"The Church's love of the poor...is part of her constant tradition. Those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the Church which, since her origin and in spite of the failings by many of her members, has not ceased to work for their relief, defense and liberation." -*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2444, 2448, quoting Pope St. John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, 57.

"The prime purpose of this special commitment to the poor is to enable them to become active participants in the life of society. It is to enable all persons to share in and contribute to the common good,. ..it states that the deprivation and powerlessness of the poor wounds the whole community. The extent of their suffering is a measure of how far we are from being a true community of persons." -USCCB, *Economic Justice for All*, 88.

Scriptural Foundations

Leviticus 19: 33-34

Deuteronomy 24:17-18

Matthew 25:31-46

Luke 4: 16-21

Like 14:12-14

Laws protecting aliens, widows and orphans

Laws protecting aliens, widows and orphans

Judgment of nations/Jesus identifies with poor

Jesus mission to poor and outcast

Reach out to the poor and vulnerable