

Works Promoting Justice (A Short List)

- Plan a prayer vigil for a specific cause. Advertise it well.
- Host a pot luck dinner to discuss an issue of concern to the Christian community. Show an issue related video.
- Write letters to elected officials regarding the passage of bills in Congress which do not have a preferential option for the vulnerable: the unborn, the poor, the mentally ill, the aged. Invite others to do likewise. Promote the “seamless fabric” that defends the sanctity & dignity all human life, from natural conception through natural death.
- Invite speakers on justice issues to speak to your group.
- Become knowledgeable about an issue that you could address effectively to yours and other groups.
- Write letters to the editor in support of programs which address the root causes of injustice.
- Set up a panel discussion by people working in a field of special interest to your youth.
- Look for opportunities in other parishes to learn about issues. Ask if that information could be published in your parish bulletin.
- Tutor adults or children in reading, language, computer skills etc... empowering them to do more for themselves.
- Call the radio and TV stations to applaud/condemn their coverage of an issue – keep their phone numbers handy!
- In conversations with family, friends, and colleagues, stand up for the poor and the marginalized of society.
- Speak out and let people know how you feel about the issues as a Christian; expect some resistance when they find out.
- Become familiar with the Social Justice documents of the Church and encourage others to do the same.
- Volunteer to work at and/or contribute financially to an organization whose purpose is to eradicate the root causes of an injustice.
- Simplify your lifestyle in one new area. Invite your family members to join you.
- Arrange to sell craft items from a third world country your parish community.
- Use the parish bulletin to raise awareness of social justice concerns (with the pastor's approval).
- Raise appropriate justice questions on every direct service project. Let no service project be considered completed until justice issues have been explored.
- Lobby your legislators in Richmond on Catholic Advocacy Day in January.
- Model yourself after the Patron Saint of our Diocese, St. Thomas More, and do not be afraid to take your faith to the public square – Pope John Paul II taught us that it is not only our right (as free citizens) but our moral obligation to do so! Most high schoolers are not old enough to vote, but they can be aware of this and influence others... and be ready when they become an adult.
- Advocate! Advocate! Advocate!

Christian love of neighbor and justice cannot be separated. For love implies an absolute demand for justice, namely the recognition of the dignity and the rights of one's neighbor.