

BOOKS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Adventures in Simple Living: A Creation-Centered Spirituality, by Rich Heffern (Crossroad, 1994)

The assistant director of "Praying" magazine calls the reader to a richer life of simple, meaningful living to reap spiritual benefits. Time is money when you work for a living, and the less money you need the more time you have for meaningful living. Excerpts are included from ten years spent in the Ozarks on a small communal farm.

Being Neighbor--The Catechism and Social Justice, Campaign for Human Development (USCCI, 1999)

This prayer resource highlights some of the social justice teachings of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in the context of six of the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

Beyond Guilt, by George S. Johnson (Adventure Publications, 2000)

24 sections of brief essays pose questions for developing social conscience. Then, by using the author's excellent bibliography, the reader can research answers in greater depth. Johnson, a Lutheran pastor, asks the reader to celebrate God's goodness even in the face of suffering and to eliminate guilt by taking responsibility.

Biblical Jubilee and the Struggle for Life, by Ross Kinsler & Gloria Kinsler (Orbis Books, 1999)

Biblical Vision of Sabbath Economics, by Ched Myers (Church of the Saviour, Wash. DC, 2002)

Bread for the World, by Arthur Simon (Paulist Press, 1975)

The author, founding president of Bread For The World Foundation and a Lutheran minister, has served twenty years on New York's economically disadvantaged lower East side. He describes hunger, with both the social and economic causes, through a question /answer format. Examples are portrayed in stories, graphic, and sidebars. The issues of population, resources, economics, and human rights are interwoven. U.S. policies play a key role.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (series of booklets)

Catholic Social Teaching and Movements, by Marvin L. Krier Mich (Twenty-Third Publications, 2003)

Catholic Social Teaching, Our Best Kept Secret, by Edward P. DeBerri & James E. Hug (Orbis Books, 2003)

Offers an overview of the history of the church's social teaching for students, teachers, and lay people as well as clergy. The authors present outlines of both recent and historic church documents to help Catholics appreciate and share their rich heritage of following Jesus' command to "love one another."

Catholic Social Thought, The Documentary Heritage, by David J. O'Brien & Thomas A. Shannon (Orbis Books, 2003)

Contains papal encyclicals, bishops' statements, and other documents on the pressing social issues of our world. "The most comprehensive single volume of primary ecclesiastical documents" (New Theology Review).

Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life, by Henri Nouwen, Donald P. McNeill, Douglas A. Morrison

What is the meaning of "compassion," and what role does it play in our lives? The authors discuss the importance of compassionate love as an integral part of each Christian life.

Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching, by Kevin E. McKenna (Ave Maria Press, 2002)

Contains distilled papal encyclicals and bishops' pastoral letters to help in understanding, teaching, and implementing Catholic Social Teaching. Each chapter includes reflection questions which are ideal for group or individual use. The appendix contains biographical information about popes who have issued social encyclicals, as well as suggested homily themes and a Reconciliation Service for Justice and Peace.

Coyote Warrior: One Man, Three Tribes, and the Trial that Forged a Nation, by Paul VanDevelder (Little, Brown and Co., 2004)

How Martin Cross and three tribes fought the Federal government for their rights, survival, heritage, and dignity over a century and a half, as told through a family history.

Credo, by William Sloane Coffin (Westminster John Knox Press, 2004)

Dead Man Walking, by Sister Helen Prejean (Vintage Books, 1994)

Dismantling Racism

Divine Right of Capital, by Marjorie Kelly (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 2001)

Doing Faithjustice, An Intro to Catholic Social Thought, by Fred Kammer, S.J. (Paulist Press, 1991)

Doing Justice--Congregations & Community Organizing, by Dennis A. Jacobsen (Fortress Press, 2001)

8 Spiritual Heroes: Their Search for God, by Brennan R. Hill. (St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2002)

God's Politics: Why the Right gets it wrong, and the Left doesn't get it, by Jim Wallis (Harper, 2005)

To come to grips with our nation's involvement in war, poverty both in the U.S. and globally, HIV/AIDS, abortion, capital punishment, plus issues of family and community value, we must examine the causes of these problems. The author presents a clear sighted perspective and challenges people of faith with a mandate to apply a guiding moral compass to these problems.

Grace at the Table, by David Beckmann & Arthur Simon (InterVarsity Press, 1999)

How Much is Enough? By Arthur Simon (Baker Books, 2003)

Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching, by Rodger Charles, S.J. (Family Publications, 1999)
An introduction to the official social teaching of the Catholic Church. It includes both an overview of the Magisterium's full teaching and a schematic presentation of it, divided into three areas-- civil society, political society, and economic society. Index allows for quick reference. Also available is a study guide which summarizes the material in the original book and presents questions for individuals or study groups, while encouraging readers to look in detail at the original text and the documents on which it is based.

Justice Prayer Book With Biblical Reflections, Faith and Human Development Series, #5-231 (Catholic Campaign for Human Development, United States Catholic Conference, Inc., 1998)
Action against poverty and injustice begins with reflection. In this collection of thoughts and meditations from spiritual leaders past and present, Catholics find guidance on how to more fully realize their identity as followers of Jesus through service to, advocacy for, and solidarity with the poor. Selections from Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, Archbishop Oscar Romero, St. Anselm, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Francis of Assisi, and others offer support and inspiration for all who work for social justice.

Living Justice: Catholic Social Teaching in Action, by Thomas Massaro, SJ. (Sheed & Ward, 2000)

Living Peace, by John Dear

Meet Dorothy Day, Champion of the Poor, by Woodeene Koenig-Bricker (Servant Publications, 2002)

Biography of Dorothy Day, giving insight on her life-journey from young, controversial journalist among socialists and atheists, to dealing with her own spiritual confusion, to becoming an activist and founder of the Catholic Worker movement; told through her own writings and words of people who knew her well.

Nickel and Dimed, by Barbara Ehrenreich (A Metropolitan/Owl Book, 2001)

Novena for Justice and Peace, Faith and Human Development Series, #5-237 (Catholic Campaign for Human Development, United States Catholic Conference, Inc., 2001)
Prayer is an important first step on the journey to social justice. In the novena prayer "To Mary, the Light of Hope," Pope John Paul II gives a prayer of release to all who are weighed down by every kind of injustice in society. Rooted in the biblical tradition and the Catholic Church's social teaching, this is a hope-filled guide through nine days of prayer, reading, and reflection, uniting parishioners in the promotion of justice and peace in their neighborhoods and nation, and throughout the world.

Opting for the Poor – A Challenge to North Americans

Place at the Table—The Gay Individual in America, by Bruce Bawer (Touchstone, 1994)
An examination of the gay-rights movement, stereotypes, and what fosters fear and hostility against gays and lesbians. The author shows the diversity of beliefs, politics, values, etc. that make up the homosexual population.

Prophetic Imagination, by Walter Brueggemann (Fortress Press, 2001)

Reading Lolita in Tehran, by Azar Nafisi (Random House, 2003)
Picture of women's lives in Iran under strict religious rule. Individual personalities and difficult personal decisions are shown as a group of women meet secretly to discuss novels.

Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment (A Citizen's Agenda for Action), by James Gustave Speth (Yale University Press, 2004)

Responses to 101 Questions on Catholic Social Teaching, by Kenneth R. Himes, O.F.M. (Paulist Press, 2001)

This small paperback is an introduction to Catholic Social Teaching. Frequent questions of inquirers are answered in accessible language and referenced to actual documents. The seven sections include a general background, ecclesiological issues, foundational themes, political life, economic life, international life, and social life. Some of the topics covered in the questions are human dignity and human rights; the kinds of justice; family and social structures; justice and political life; the meaning of human work; labor unions and the rights of labor; the just wage; capitalism, socialism, and communism; the just war tradition; pacifism; the arms race; debt forgiveness; women in society; racism; immigration; and the death penalty.

Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger-- Moving from Affluence to Generosity, by Ronald J. Sider (W Publishing Group, 1997)

What is poverty? What does the Bible say about the poor? What causes poverty? How can we as individuals and a nation work toward a more fair world? In this book, the author tries to get readers to think seriously about these questions, and he gives specific answers to them.

Saint Francis and the Foolishness of God, by Marie Dennis, et al (Orbis Books, 1993)

A collection of biographies of St. Francis of Assisi. The authors, Catholic and Protestant, present St. Francis as he struggles with poverty, violence, and suffering. The reader sees both his human and his spiritual sides.

Send My Roots Rain: A Spirituality of Justice and Mercy, by Megan McKenna

The author, a Catholic scholar, teacher, speaker, and retreat leader, presents parables—stories of love, freedom, peace, friendship, and loss—which show fulfillment through mercy and justice. The stories range from sad to humorous, but all are very human.

Shaping a New World, A Challenge for the 21st Century, Network Education Program, 6th Ed., Wash., DC.

Sharing Catholic Social Teaching, Challenges and Directions, Reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops (United States Catholic Conference, Inc., 2000)

In this thoughtful reflection, the bishops present a compelling explanation of how Catholic social teaching is central to keeping the Church strong and true to the Gospel demand "to bring glad tidings to the poor." The book highlights the seven major themes of Catholic social teaching--from life and dignity of the human person to care for God's creation--and provides workable recommendations for incorporating those themes into all forms of Catholic education and formation. It is an indispensable guide for all involved in Catholic education, from elementary through higher education.

Simple life: Plain Living and High Thinking in American Culture, by David E. Shi (Oxford University Press, 1985)

The author writes about the importance of making the decision to live a simpler life, then doing it, and the resultant improved spiritual health of the individual and moral health of the nation.

Simpler Living, Compassionate Life—a Christian Perspective, by Henri Nouwen, R. Foster, et al (Living the Good News)

The articles in this book question what the "good life" is and focus readers on improving our lives through simplicity. Discussions cover major aspects of daily life: food, money, time, spirituality, heritage, and community.

Stormy Weather: 101 Solutions to Global Climate Change, by Guy Dauncey with Patrick Mazza (New Society Publishers, 2001)

'Tis a Gift to be Simple, by Barbara DeGrote-Sorensen & David DeGrote-Sorensen (Augsberg Fortress, 1992)

More than slowing down, a life style of simplicity makes an important statement to the world family. Voluntary simplicity is a matter of obedience, living faith integrated with life, a personal commitment to a more equitable distribution of the world's resources. This book offers a biblical and spiritual foundation for making changes that reflect God's priorities in our lives.

Toward A Spirituality For Global Justice: A Call to Kinship, by Elaine Prevalett

The author lays a solid foundation for broadening our sense of justice to include kinship with all members of the community of Earth, and for living a life of commitment and compassion. Viewing life's possibilities through a threefold lens-- science, the solidarity of humanity, and a vision of communion—the author explores the riches of the Hebrew Scriptures and the treasures of the Christian Gospel, opening new insights for her readers and relating them to present times. She emphasizes the value of a group process that probes the inner as well as the outer work required in social activism, highlighting instances of strength and heroism. Written in clear enjoyable prose, this book will lead readers to a new understanding of the demands of social justice in a global economy on an endangered planet.

Unexpected News: Reading the Bible with Third World Eyes, by Robert McAfee Brown (Westminster Press, 1984)

Violence of Love, by Oscar Romero, compiled & translated by James R. Brockman, SJ (Orbis Books, 1988)

Way of the Cross Toward Justice and Peace, Faith and Human Development Series, #5-235 (Catholic Campaign for Human Development, United States Catholic Conference, Inc., 1998)

The Weather Makers, by Tim Flannery

The author argues passionately the urgent need for us to address now the implications of a global climate change that is damaging all life on earth and endangering our very survival. This book is unimpeachable in its authority and deftly and accessibly written, giving us a vision for what each of us can do to avoid catastrophe. It is a global call to arms, laying out plainly if not controversially what we know, what we think might happen, and what tools we have available to us to make a difference. He reminds us that we are the weather makers, and we already possess the tools required to avoid catastrophic climate change.

We Make the Road by Walking, Central America, Mexico, Etc. in the New Millennium, Edited by Ann Butwell, Kathy Ogle, & Scott Wright (EPICA's 30th Anniversary Anthology, Vol II, 1998)

Word of God, the Word of Peace, by Patricia McCarthy, C.N.D. (The Liturgical Press, 2001)
Using Scripture, Sr. McCarthy explains God's process of peace and justice, from His request, to our response, to what is required of us, to the rewards. She quotes passages from the Old and New Testaments to explain each part of the process. (This book can be read alone or as part of the Little Rock Scripture Study on "The Way of Justice and Peace.")

Why Do They Hate Me? Young Lives Caught in War and Conflict, by Laurel Holliday (Archway Paperback/Pocket Books, 1999)

Portions of diaries and journals written by children and teenagers as they lived through the Holocaust and WW II, "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland, and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Books are available in the public library, in book stores, or from on-line book sellers. For additional information, contact your Holy Family Social Justice Advisory Committee through Susan Olsen: phone her at 265-3331, email her at susan.olsen@hfsj.org, or leave a message in her mailbox in the parish office.