Acting on Behalf of Justice

Keep these ideas in mind as you study Unit 5, Session 22.

Through the end of the 18th century, many families made their income by selling crops and livestock. Advances in technology began to make farming easier.  

As members of a universal Church, we are called to participation in the life of the community. Through participation in our communities, we work to build a just and peaceful society.

The textile industry developed new machines and work processes that greatly increased production. The rapid change in technology regarding how goods were produced is known as the Industrial Revolution. During the Industrial Revolution, people worked long hours and received low wages.

Pope John Paul II pointed out that human life is sacred because it is a gift from God. We also believe that we are able to see the face of Christ in every human face.

An encyclical is another name for a letter written by the pope and sent to the whole Church and sometimes to the whole world.

As Jesus’ followers, we are called by the Holy Spirit to live in solidarity with others. We are called to live as one human family—whatever our differences may be.

Pope Leo XIII wrote the first official document that presents the Church’s Catholic Social Teaching and discusses economic issues. He applied Catholic teaching to the rights of humans to work, own property, and establish professional labor associations. Pope Leo XIII defined a living wage as enough to support a person with reasonable comfort.

Pope John Paul II reminded us that through solidarity and charity, we recognize Christ in our neighbor.

Subsidiarity is the belief that issues are often best handled at the lowest level of authority.

Another way we can live in solidarity with others is to care for the earth. In this way, we show God’s love to the people who will come after us.

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