

Name _____

Foundations of Catholic Social Teaching

Directed Reading Worksheet

Chapter 6: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Date _____

Directions: Read through the chapter and fill in the missing information. All the questions run sequential to the chapter. If a true/false statement is false, correct it.

Introduction: An Overview of Poverty (Pages 171–176)

1. The theme of “Option for the Poor and _____” highlights the call to treat those who are _____ in a special way. The poor deserve particular _____ because of their vulnerable position. The _____ has always had a special concern for the _____, ministering to them by providing alms, food and _____, and medical care and education, because of _____ example.
2. True or False? The consistent teaching of the Church’s Magisterium is that all Catholics have a responsibility to do justice by caring for the poor.
3. Briefly define these different forms of poverty terms:
 - (a) Poverty of the soul:
 - (b) Poverty of addiction:
 - (c) Poverty of spirit:
4. Material _____ is a lack of the basic necessities for _____. Those living in poverty may lack _____ or live in woefully inadequate, unsafe, _____, and crowded conditions, often in high-_____ neighborhoods. Causes include chronic _____ or jobs that do not earn workers a “_____”. Those who are poor are typically voiceless in the political and _____ sectors.
5. True or False? Material poverty looks much different in the United States as Americans, on the whole, are very rich in comparison with people in developing nations.
6. True or False? Statistics reveal that the gap between rich and poor nations is narrowing both domestically and internationally.
7. True or False? God has blessed the earth with enough wealth and material goods to take care of the needs of all people.
8. Poverty of spirit affirms that _____ alone is the sole source of all _____, the foremost of which are the Salvation and _____ offered by Christ. Poverty of spirit begins with _____ and closely follows the example of Christ who, in his Incarnation, “_____” for the sake of his people.
9. How do the poor in spirit “empty themselves”?

10. Poverty indicates the _____ and brokenness of the world because of _____. All suffering points to the human need for an _____, and it points to the need for _____ and the graces of _____. Christ directed his loving gaze upon the most _____ in society and identifies _____ with the poor.

Section 1: The Bible and Poverty (Pages 177–181)

11. True or False? From the Scriptures and Church teaching, we learn that the justice of a society is tested by the treatment of the poor.

12. Who were the poor mentioned in Scripture?

13. True or False? In his public ministry Jesus embraced the poor, and, in his last public discourse, he announced his outreach to the neediest among them.

14. The Israelites showed their love for God by _____ with and care for the _____ in their midst. This included two important practices: the _____—in which the land was not to be farmed, _____ were forgiven, and slaves set free—and the _____—which included restoring _____ to families and emancipating indentured _____.

15. What was the goal of the practices of the Sabbatical and Jubilee years?

16. Why did God send the prophets? What was their warning?

17. True or False? Time and again, the Old Testament teaches about injustice and reassures the wealthy that God indeed hears their cries.

18. The _____ is proof of God's love for humanity and his great love and _____ for the poor. Jesus became _____ and lived a life of poverty. He called no place _____, relied on the generosity of others for _____, and died with no _____. Jesus freely chose this _____ to teach what it means to love and _____ his life to gain eternal life for _____ humanity.

19. True or False? Throughout his earthly ministry Jesus associated with the lowly and the outcast and responded to their needs.

20. Note what Jesus teaches through each of these parables:

(a) The parable of the Good Samaritan:

(b) The parable of the Lazarus and the rich man:

(c) The parable of the rich fool:

21. True or False? Although you are saved only by good works, Christ was clear that you are judged on how you serve him in the least of his people.
22. True or False? Anyone can give food to someone who is hungry, but the Christian does so because he sees Christ in that person.

Section 2: The Scandal of World Hunger (Pages 182–187)

23. True or False? For Christians, feeding the hungry is one of the spiritual works of mercy.
24. What are the effects of malnourishment?
25. True or False? The chief victims of hunger and malnutrition are often the most vulnerable members of society: children, pregnant women, the sick, the elderly, refugees, and those affected by political turmoil.
26. True or False? The research of many organizations, including the United Nations, shows that the world cannot produce enough food to feed every human being.
27. The reason that people continue to _____ is not a problem of availability but of meeting _____. It is a structural problem and _____ is the main problem. Hunger is an issue of _____, often resulting from or perpetuated by _____.
28. Briefly explain the four factors that contribute to world hunger:
 - (a) Corruption:
 - (b) Foreign loans:
 - (c) Land degradation:
 - (d) Politics:
29. Catholic social teaching advocates a _____ to the problem of world hunger. For _____, it means that we must work for _____ along with doing works of _____. For society, it means

developing _____ that support education, _____, transportation, health care, and so forth.

30. True or False? Pope Benedict XVI declared that throwing food away is like stealing from the tables of the poor and hungry.
31. According to a report by the Natural Resources Defense Council a _____ percent reduction in food _____ by Americans would be sufficient to feed _____ million Americans annually. All the while, citizens discard _____ percent of the food supply each year. _____ other human beings of food is a violation of the _____ commandment: "You shall not _____."
32. Summarize what direct aid to the poor through the principle of subsidiarity includes.
33. True or False? St. John Paul II observed, "Justice will never be fully attained unless people see in the poor person not an annoyance or a burden but an opportunity for showing kindness and a chance for greater enrichment."

Section 3: Working to End Poverty (Pages 188–194)

34. Poverty is a by-product of _____. Jesus said, "You will _____ have the poor with you, but you will not always have _____". This does not mean one should not work to _____ poverty. Jesus showed _____ for the poor and went about caring for the immediate _____ and addressed poverty of the _____ by calling followers to leave their _____ behind to follow him.
35. True or False? Efforts to totally eliminate poverty are impossible as this will only happen with the Second Coming.
36. True or False? It is not a requirement of the Christian life to work to end the immediate and far-reaching effects of poverty.
37. The _____ of mercy provide helps for the needs of the _____, which include active involvement in providing for them. You must put your words into _____: if you care for others only in _____ and not in _____, then you are not truly carrying out the corporal works of _____. You must practice what you _____.
38. True or False? A person may be materially satisfied and yet may be enduring a certain poverty of the soul.
39. Explain the difference between a narrow sense of almsgiving and a broader sense of almsgiving.
40. Explain the principle of justice known as the universal destination of goods.
41. Although God has allowed his people to _____ in his dominion by allowing them to be _____ of his creation, the earth and all it contains _____ to Him. Human beings cannot

_____ nor flourish without _____. Thus, based on the principle of the _____, all human beings must have _____ to created goods.

42. True or False? You should see your goods as not merely your own but “common” to others, in that others will not be able to benefit from your property.
43. True or False? Your service of and sharing with the poor is not to come merely out of your excess.
44. True or False? The universal destination of goods is an encouragement of socialism.
45. What is the tricky balance you must maintain in your life?
46. _____ is one solution to alleviate _____ poverty. Poverty chiefly is a sign of one’s need for Christ and his _____; without the love of Christ driving you, your actions are _____ and do not hold the profound meaning of those compelled by _____. It is a “_____” duty, not “either/or” task—both addressing other forms of _____ and evangelization.

Section 3: Poverty and You (Pages 195–198)

47. True or False? Although compassion for the poor is a start, you are called to serve Christ in the poor right before you every day.
48. It is not _____ to have material possessions and _____, but it is wrong to allow owning things and “getting ahead” to take _____ over serving the dignity of the human person. _____ must be a witness of the _____ beyond these earthly ones. Living a life in _____ to the poor involves your own _____ of life and _____ of goods.
49. What did St. John Chrysostom once exhort about the poor?
50. True or False? The liturgical life of the Church is separate from her life of charity and justice.
51. The privilege of receiving the _____ of Christ must compel you to serve him in the _____ of his people. It commits the _____ to the poor. The _____ is meant to help the Church become Christ’s Body so he may continue his work of _____ to satisfy not just their _____ hungers but also their _____ hungers.
52. What does justice sometimes require?
53. True or False? Before God, everyone is poor.