

A

ADVOCACY

Catholic social teaching calls us to two actions: direct service (e.g., contributing to the Giving Tree, working at a soup kitchen) and advocacy. Advocacy is working to remove the cause, going to the deeper problem. This is often done through letter-writing, emails, and phone calls to state and national legislators, problem-solving groups, and action groups; it requires much dedication and risk-taking. Which issues of concern can you be an advocate for?

This is often also referred to as the two feet of outreach: charity and justice. Charity is all that we do to reach out to help those who are victims of a system that is broken. Justice is all that we do to fix the system.

What are some examples of charity (service) and justice (advocacy) that you are involved in? That our Church is doing?

Within your catechetical session, what issue could you become involved in this year? How could you do it with your learners?

A Family Connection

Suggest to your learners' families ways that they can make the time and have the courage for both service and advocacy. Many ideas for each are given as we go through the letters of the alphabet ahead.

*For everything there is a season,
and a time for everything under heaven.
Loving Lord, help us always to make time for you
and for the gift of our classmates (our family),
time to enjoy,
time to grow,
time to celebrate.
Help us, too, to make time to widen our circle
time to see the people who need our help
time to use our gifts to brighten the lives
of others
time to work with others to make this world
a better place*