

*Innocent Dunia from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)*

# CARE ABOUT

A unit for post-16 General RE  
Suitable for use with the  
Pope John Paul II  
Award (Unit 2)

**TROCAIRE**  
Working for a Just World



Pope John Paul II  
Award



*Children near Manchar Lake, Pakistan*



# Teaching Objectives

**At the end of this unit, you will:**

- **Be familiar with scripture and Catholic Social Teaching relating to our call as Christians to act in solidarity with the poor and needy.**
- **Reflect on your own attitudes and values concerning helping the poor and needy on a global scale.**



*Mudzipela centre for babies in  
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)*



# One Global Family

**We are all one family and as Christians are all called to be our sisters or brothers keepers, regardless of whether they are next door or around the world.**

*Inside the Catholic Church in Napumpum,  
Karamoja, Uganda*



# What does Solidarity mean?

## Solidarity

n. A union of interests, purposes or sympathies among members of a group; fellowship of responsibilities and interests.



Collage from Mary Robinson's 1992 visit to Somalia



# Standing in Solidarity

**Solidarity is about helping each other.**

*“It is not just feeling sympathy for the poor in our communities or the world; it is the firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good.”*

– Pope John Paul II, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis



The Wall, West Bank



# Love of God and Neighbour

Jesus focused on the importance of solidarity in the two greatest commands:  
to love God and to love your neighbour as yourself – (Mark 12:28-31)





*Cliphonie Mukamutana (56) harvesting maize  
in Mombori swamp, Kamonyi district,  
southern province, Rwanda*

# New Testament Faith in Action

Throughout the Gospels Jesus transforms our love of neighbour into assistance to others:

- in helping the injured in the story of the **Good Samaritan** – (Luke 10:25-37)
- in responding to the needs of the hungry in the **‘Feeding of the Five Thousand’** – (Matthew 14:13-21)

**For Jesus caring for our fellow man was not an option, it was an absolute requirement!**



*Umar Laku from Sudan*



# Solidarity on a Global Scale

**Many people believe that ‘charity begins at home’ and this is true. Nevertheless our responsibility to help others doesn’t end ‘at home’ either.**

**Solidarity with the poor and needy throughout the world is central to Jesus’ teaching. Jesus helped Gentiles and Jews alike, he made no distinction.**



*Woreya Kubwimana (3) and  
Maria Russie Iyatumyavuka (3),  
Rwanda*

# Global Solidarity

**Global solidarity expresses concern for world peace and international development and can be found throughout scripture:**

Genesis 22:17-18; Psalms 22: 28-29 **(Need to save all nations)**

Isaiah 2:1-4; Micah 4:1-13 **(Call for peace for all nations)**

Romans 10:12 **(No national distinctions in God)**

*The gift of light - Maria Namongo from Karamoja  
in north east Uganda*



# Catholic Social Teaching

**What is ‘Catholic Social Teaching’?**

*“...a collection of teachings developed by the Catholic Church on poverty and wealth, economics, social organisation and the role of the state.”*

So, Popes and Bishops have spoken out on labour rights, sharing wealth, peace-making and many other social issues.



*Miltom Vladimir (age 5) and Manuel Anderson (age 3) from department of Ahuachapan in El Salvador playing in the debris left by recent floods.*



# Papal Messages

***“A consistent theme of Catholic Social Teaching is the option... or preference... for the poor. Today, this preference has to be expressed in worldwide dimensions, embracing the immense numbers of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care, and those without hope.”***

– Pope John Paul II, On Social Concern



*Pope Benedict XVI meets faithful during his visit to Luanda, Angola, March 2009*

# Papal Messages

**“We must not only aid others in individual basic needs but we must also address the causes of their needs.”**

– Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*

**We are called as Christians not only to help those living in poverty through almsgiving but we are challenged by Christ to transform attitudes and structures that perpetuate poverty.**





# Questioning Attitudes and Values

How are we required to respond as Christians to the world's poorest people?

Can you list some ways in which the values that Jesus asks us to live by are often contradicted by our treatment of those living in poverty in the world?

Pope John Paul II stated that *'love for others, and in the first place love for the poor, in whom the Church sees Christ himself, is made concrete in the promotion of justice'*  
– (Centesimus Annus, 1991, #58).

Discuss what you think Pope John Paul II meant when he spoke about 'the promotion of justice'.



North Korea, 1997, by Justin Kilcullen



## Debate the Issue

Give three arguments for and three arguments against the statement:

**“There should be no rich Christians in the world while social inequality and poverty exists.”**



Sunday is from Kolongo in Uganda



# Let us Pray

**Dear Father in Heaven,**

**May I always find a way to follow the promptings of my conscience to help others whose humanity is diminished by the desperate conditions of their lives. Help me shape a world where the lives and dignity of all people are respected and protected, where hunger and poverty no longer make the lives of many people unbearable.**

**Amen**