



- A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

Part 5: Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

3. Justice—compassion and Love

Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith. Rule 15



We ask our Catholic sons who belong to the more favoured nations to bring their talents and give their active participation to organisations, be they of an official or private nature, civil or religious, which are working to overcome the difficulties of the developing nations. They will certainly desire to be in the first ranks of those who collaborate to establish as fact and reality an international morality based on justice and equity.

Paul VI *Populorum Progressio* 81

Can there be justice without charity?

Can there be charity without justice?

Most people would not immediately think of St Francis as a social reformer, yet the OFS itself was a great instrument of reform. No lay Franciscan was allowed to bear arms to be used against any person. This was a deadly blow against a system of enforced military service...At Faenza...many of the citizens who had joined the *Penitential Brothers* [as the OFS was then called...would not take] the usual oath of obedience...[and] take up arms when the authorities ordered it...as it was against their Rule...They turned in their need to Francis' friend, Cardinal Hugolino. The pope then ordered the bishop to take the *Penitential Brothers* under his protection. This dispute soon spread over all Italy. As a sort of punishment the cities subjected the [brothers] to special taxes and forbade their giving their property to the poor...the pope [then] ordered all the clergy to take the side of the *Brothers* against the public authorities. And so the OFS brought about at least a partial disarming of the quarrelsome Italian republics.

Foley, Weigel, Normile *To Live as Francis Lived* Reflection Reflection 36 (p 134)



The varieties of crime are numerous: all offences against life itself, such as murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia and wilful suicide; all violations of integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, physical and mental torture, undue psychological pressures; all offences against human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children, degrading working conditions where men are treated as mere tools for profit rather than free and responsible persons: all these and the like are criminal: they poison civilization; and they debase the perpetrators more than the victims and militate against the honour of the creator.

Vat II *Gaudium et Spes* 27



Scripture—

Lev 19. 15-16

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great; with justice you shall judge your neighbour. You shall not go round as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the Lord.

Amos 5. 23-24

Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Lk 3. 10-14

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'and we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'