



# RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

## Basic:

God wants us to help make sure everyone is safe and healthy and can have a good life.

More - The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities -- to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

## CST 101: Rights and Responsibilities

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPB6sXj6Fwo>

## EXAMPLES FROM SCRIPTURE Taken from the USCCB website.

Leviticus 25:35 - When someone is reduced to poverty, we have an obligation to help.

Ruth 2:2-23 - Boaz cares for Ruth, a widow and foreigner, giving her far more than the law requires.

Tobit 4:5-11 - Give from what you have received and do not turn away from the poor.

Proverbs 31:8-9 - Open your mouth to speak on behalf of those in need.

Isaiah 1:16-17 - Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

Jeremiah 22:13-16 - A legitimate government upholds the rights of the poor and vulnerable.

Jeremiah 29:4-7 - Seek the welfare of the city, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Matthew 25:31-26 - Just as you did it to the least of these, you did it to me.

Luke 16:19-31 - The rich man has a responsibility to care to Lazarus.

Acts 4:32-35 - There was not a needy person among them.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 - God's gifts are given to be shared.

James 2:14-18 - Faith without works is dead.



# RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PRAYER SERVICE

## SET UP

- Place this weeks picture in your prayer area
- Light a candle
- Have Bible open to Genesis 1:26-27

## GATHER

*Gather around your prepared prayer space. Take a minute to quite the noise around you and turn your focus towards God.*

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Song: Open My Eyes Lord

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.  
Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.  
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.  
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

I live within you. Deep in your heart, O Love.  
I live within you. Rest now in me.

## LISTEN

*Now take time to listen to God speaking to you through Scripture.*

Reader 1: A reading from the Gospel of Luke

There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scrapes that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried

away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.'

Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.'

He said, 'Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.'

But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.'

He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'

The Word of the Lord,  
ALL: Thanks be to God.

## SHARE

*Pick a couple questions to talk about for a few minutes. If you get stuck on a question, just move on to a different one.*

- Do you find yourself connecting more with Lazarus or the rich man? Why?
- What rights of Lazarus were being violated?
  - Lazarus had the right to...
- How could the rich man have been an advocate for Lazarus?
- Where do you see or hear about rights being violated in your community or around the world?
- Who's responsibility is it to ensure those rights are protected or fulfilled?
- How might God be inviting you to advocate to protect the rights you feel most passionate about, and ensure that corresponding duties are fulfilled?

## LISTEN

*In light of the conversation you just had, read through the reading from Genesis again.*

## Reader 2: A reading from the Gospel of Luke

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## RESPOND

*Now that we have listened to God speaking to us, how are we going to respond to His message?*

Sometimes we can be like the rich man and take our rights for granted. Many of us are blessed with rights that others may not have access too, such as food, clean water, clothing, and so such.

Find something that represents a right you are blessed to enjoy and place it in your prayer space. Every time you see that item throughout the week, say a short prayer of thanksgiving and a prayer for those who do not have access to their basic rights.

## SEND

*Now that we have spent time in prayer with God, listening to His message and responded, we are sent. Challenged to go out and use what we have learned.*

Leader:

Lord of Wisdom, awaken us to our duty to care for the basic needs of all people.

Strengthen with hope people denied their human rights and freedoms.

Provide us all with the voice to cry out for justice for the poor and the oppressed.

Amen.

ALL: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.