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December 2009

Catholic Social Justice

Dorothy Day: Don't Call Me a Saint (DVD) One Lucky Dog Productions, 2007. Recalls the story of the New York writer and social reformer. The film begins at the height of the Depression with Dorothy meeting the French peasant philosopher, Peter Maurin. Together they created the Catholic Worker, a peace and justice movement that persists to this day in hospitality houses and soup kitchens around the world.

A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching (Book) McKenna, Kevin, Ave Maria Press, 2002. As parishes and schools intensify efforts to promote Catholic social teaching, here is a welcome distillation of social principles presented in both papal encyclicals and pastoral letters developed by American bishops. Each chapter includes reflection questions ideal for individual or group usage, and the appendix offers biographical information about popes who have issued social encyclicals, suggested homily themes and a Reconciliation Service for Justice and Peace.

Creative Connections for Catechists from A - Z: Catholic Social Teaching (Book) Schaeffler, Janet, Twenty-Third Publications, 2009. Shows catechists creative (and fun) ways to focus on Catholic Social Teaching with those they teach (and their parents). The author assures them that this is not something difficult and mysterious, but rather a way of life we are called to live daily. Through it, she says, catechists are responding to the mandate to serve others and to develop relationships with people whose life experiences differ from their own. She says it is a way of living their baptism as disciples of Jesus. And, she describes all this from A to Z, quite literally.

And God Saw That It Was Good and **Awakening the Spirit** (DVDs) WA Earth Ministry & WETA-the National Parks Film Project, 2009. Shot over six years, the Ken Burn's film shown on PBS, describes the evolution of the national park concept and the development of the National Park System, which now protects 84 million acres. The film also features many individual stories of those who were instrumental in protecting the parks as well as those who have had important experiences in the parks. These two DVDs encourage reflection upon how we are to live in loving relationship with God's gift of creation. Study guides are available and are meant to facilitate a four week study group.

In the Footsteps of Jesus: Resource Manual on Catholic Social Teaching (Now on DVD!) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2004. Divided into two sections, this compelling DVD presents a comprehensive overview of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching, along with a summary of the scriptural and historical context for their development. Ideal for individual or group use.

Parish Social Ministry: Strategies for Success (Book) Ulrich, Tom, Ave Maria Press, 2001. With strategies for organizing meetings, assessing parish resources, building relationships with pastors and parish councils, and avoiding burnout, this book offers tools to enable a parish to effectively serve to the poor and to take social action on their behalf.



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Catholic Social Teaching for Children and Teens

To Act Justly: Introducing Catholic Social Teaching to Children with Stories and Activities (Book)

Neuberger, Anne E., Twenty-Third Publications, 2002. Aims to help children think, feel, and act with justice by using stories that illustrate the seven social justice principles, the teachings of Vatican II and the beatitudes. Creative activities develop compassion and apply what students have learned in enjoyable, concrete ways. P,I.



To Walk Humbly: Stories and Activities for Teaching Compassion and Justice (Book)

Neuberger, Anne E., Twenty Third Publications, 2007. Offers fifty-five wonderful stories from around the world to help young Catholics "connect" with the social, environmental, and economic problems of children around the globe. It encourages them to accept and think of these children as family, as sisters and brothers. Story topics include school life, child labor, cultural and religious celebrations, hunger, racism, poverty, sharing, generosity, and lifestyles. I,J.

A Kids' Guide to Hunger and Homelessness: How to Take Action (Book)

Berger Kaye, Cathryn, Free Spirit Publications, 2007. This handbook covers the causes and effects of hunger and homelessness, examines how kids around the world are helping, shows how to plan and do meaningful service projects and reflections on what is learned and accomplished. P,I,J.

Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who! (DVD) Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, 2008. Enchanting animated adaptation of the classic children's book about a warmhearted elephant who discovers that a speck of dust is home to the microscopic town of Who-ville, led by a slightly eccentric mayor, and who must find the particle a safe resting place despite the opposition of a closed-minded kangaroo and a wicked but dim eagle. The film promotes excellent values and the script, performances and animation all match the high quality of the original source material. The film, promotes excellent values, such as compassion, self-sacrifice, persistence and teamwork. P,I,J.

Justice and Service Ideas for Ministry with Young Teens (Book)

Grant, Joseph, Saint Mary's Press, 2000. Short- and long-term service projects, outreach activities, learning exercises, and discussion-starters aimed at challenging young teens to live out the Gospel mandate and the Church's call to serve others and build a just society. J,S.

To Love Tenderly: Introducing Children to Acts of Compassion and Justice through Stories (Book)

Neuberger, Anne E., Twenty-Third Publications, 2005. Contains thirty-two short stories about children and families from many different countries and cultures. They all introduce children to the realities of poverty, injustice, and abuse of natural resources to help them develop a strong sense of identification with children all over the world. P,I.

Martin's Big Words: the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Book)

Rappaport, Doreen, Hyperion Books for Children, 2001. This picture-book biography is an excellent and accessible introduction for young readers to learn about one of the world's most influential leaders; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Doreen Rappaport weaves the immortal words of Dr. King into a captivating narrative to tell the story of his life. Exquisite illustrations and collages highlighting the civil rights icon's life and words. P,I,J.

All You Need to Know About Planning a Youth Service Week (Book)

DanESCO, Lee, Twenty-Third Publications, 2001. A practical guidebook for both experienced and first time youth ministers, and for the experienced DRE's and catechists who want to empower teens to create and carry out an extended program of Christian service. I,J,S.

Teen Discipleship (VHS) St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2000. This program follows a group of teens on a mission trip to Chicago, focusing on how their baptismal commitment comes alive in service to others. Youth minister Sister Patty McCulloch, answers teens' questions about Christian service and the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. J,S.

*I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted. And justice for the poor.
Psalms 140:12*