

Searching for Signs of Social Sin

Web Quest

Identifying a Just Response

In this unit we have identified the definition of social sin and the key concepts related to social sin, including social justice and the common good. The key questions guiding this Web quest are as follows:

- Where do we find social sin in our global community?
- How do we develop a just response to these sins?
- In what ways can we address the injustices of social sin?

For this Web quest, you will visit the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Web site to explore these questions and their answers.

Web Quest Process

To complete this Web quest, follow these steps:

1. Begin this quest with an Internet search for the home page of Catholic Relief Services (CRS). You will note at the top of the window the CRS motto: "Giving Hope to a World of Need."

2. On the site's top navigation bar, hold your mouse over the button "How We Serve," and then click on the link for "Peacebuilding" in the drop-down menu that appears. Read the introduction to peacebuilding and respond to the following question on a separate sheet of paper:

- Why is war the result of social sin?

3. Find the topic headings on the left navigation bar, and click on "Peacebuilding Definitions." Read these definitions and respond to the following question on your paper:

- Based on these definitions, what are the foundational principles needed for peacebuilding?

4. In the left navigation bar, find and click on "Stories about Peacebuilding." You will reach a list of stories addressing global situations that result from patterns of injustice in society. Scan down the article titles. If it is still listed, read the article "Peacebuilding: Healing the Wounds of War." In addition, read two or more of the stories that most interest you. Then respond to the next two questions on your paper:

- What patterns of behavior are instilled in children during times of war or violence that lead to continued cycles of violence?
- How does CRS help communities and individuals to heal the wounds of war?



5. Next, view the images and descriptions in the photo essay that accompanies the article “Peacebuilding: Healing the Wounds of War.” (If that photo essay is not available, find another photo essay or video story to view.) After noting the projects described in the photo essay, respond to the following question on your paper:

- Based on the CRS projects you viewed, what is your understanding of the phrase “promoting the common good”?

6. Return to the page for “Stories about Peacebuilding.” Find the article “If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation.” The article is composed of excerpts from Pope Benedict XVI’s 2010 message for the World Day of Peace. When you have completed the reading, respond to the following questions on your paper:

- What social sin does the Pope address in this message?
- What principles does Pope Benedict advocate in planning a model for development?

Final Conclusions

The readings on the Catholic Relief Services Web site address two moral concerns that involve social sin: war and violence and environmental exploitation. These social sins continue because some groups have come to accept certain sinful attitudes and actions that harm other people and harm creation. Choose one particular type of social sin and finish this Web quest by writing a one-paragraph essay for each of the following questions:

- What small steps can you take to challenge this social sin in your local, national, or global community?
- How can you help heal the damage caused by this social sin?

