

Government Relations Workshop: Part Two

Speaker's Notes

Slide 1



Slide 2



READ:

"The best way to predict the future is to create it. The best way to create it is in collaboration with God" (Matthew Kelly, *Life is Messy*).

Slide 3



Consider providing some time for participants to introduce themselves and learn a bit about each other. (3–5 minutes)

Slide 4

Opening Prayer: Franciscan Blessing

Left: May God bless you with discomfort... at easy answers, hard hearts, half-truths, and superficial relationships.


Right: May God bless you so that you may live from deep within your heart where God's Spirit dwells.

Left: May God bless you with anger... at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people.

Right: May God bless you so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Left: May God bless you with tears... to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war.

Right: May God bless you so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.



Source: Troubadour: A Missionary Magazine

READ:

We will divide this group into two groups—left and right to pray our opening prayer together.

Left: May God bless you with discomfort... at easy answers, hard hearts, half-truths, and superficial relationships.

Right: May God bless you so that you may live from deep within your heart where God's Spirit dwells.

Left: May God bless you with anger... at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people.

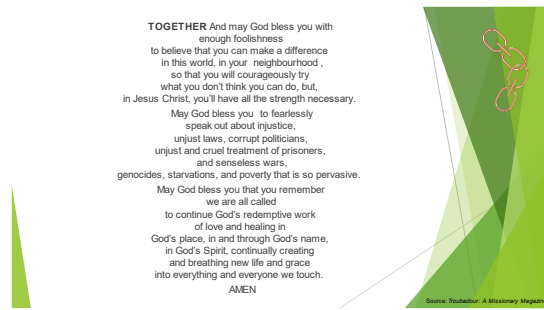
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Right: May God bless you so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

"A Franciscan Christmas Blessing for Justice and Peace," Troubadour: A Missionary Magazine

Slide 5



READ TOGETHER:

And may God bless you with
enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference
in this world, in your neighbourhood,
so that you will courageously try
what you don't think you can do, but,
in Jesus Christ, you'll have all the strength necessary.

May God bless you to fearlessly
speak out about injustice,
unjust laws, corrupt politicians,
unjust and cruel treatment of prisoners,
and senseless wars,
genocides, starvations, and poverty that is so pervasive.

May God bless you that you remember
we are all called
to continue God's redemptive work
of love and healing in
God's place, in and through God's name,
in God's Spirit, continually creating
and breathing new life and grace
into everything and everyone we touch.

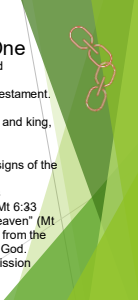
AMEN

"A Franciscan Christmas Blessing for Justice and Peace," Troubadour: A Missionary Magazine

Slide 6

**Summary of
Government Relations Workshop: Part One**

- ▶ Catholic social teaching (CST) is a long tradition based on sacred scriptures.
- ▶ Sacred scripture dates back to our roots in Judaism and the Old Testament. We explored how fundamental collaboration is to our faith.
- ▶ Baptism reflects God's call for each Catholic to be priest, prophet and king, as well as a disciple in the church inspired by the Spirit, to live this discipleship every day.
- ▶ Through the Second Vatican Council we are called to "read the signs of the times" and be Christ for others in today's world.
- ▶ The Reign of God: "But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Mt 6:33-34). "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6:10). All of these reasons for advocacy come together in this line from the Our Father. We work together to further the reign, the kingdom of God.
- ▶ There are connections between these points and the League's mission statement, core purpose, core values and envisioned future.



Click once to display each bullet.

READ:


The main reasons why the League collaborates with government include:

- Catholic social teaching (CST) is a long tradition based on sacred scriptures.
- Sacred scripture dates back to our roots in Judaism and the Old Testament. We explored how fundamental collaboration is to our faith.
- Baptism reflects God's call for each Catholic to be priest, prophet and king, as well as a disciple in the church inspired by the Spirit, to live this discipleship every day.
- Through the Second Vatican Council, we are called to "read the signs of the times" and be Christ for others in today's world.
- The Reign of God: "But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Mt 6:33-34). "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6:10). All of these reasons for advocacy come together in this line from the Our Father. We work together to further the reign, the kingdom of God.
- There are connections between these points and the League's mission statement, core purpose, core values and envisioned future.

Slide 7

**Government Relations Workshop:
Part Two**

- Overview of the collaboration process
- Key principles of CST—a brief history and explanation
- The Two Feet of Christian Service



READ:

In part two of the Government Relations workshop, we will address the following topics:

- Overview of the collaboration process

- Key principles of CST—a brief history and explanation
- The Two Feet of Christian Service

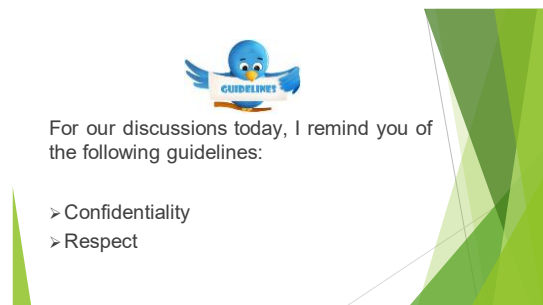
Slide 8



READ:

This short video clip will give you a sense of the work that members have done in the past to collaborate with governments. You will also get a sense of the members’ great pride in this ongoing work for the poorest of the poor and those without a voice who are given a voice through the League and its members.

Slide 9

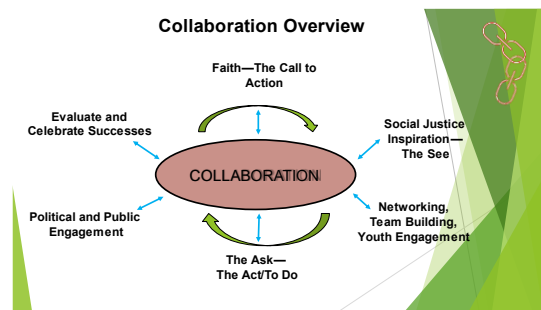


READ:

For our discussions today, I remind you of the following guidelines:

- **Confidentiality:** To ensure comfort in sharing, we dedicate ourselves to the confidentiality of what is shared. Please do not presume that telling a friend what was shared in your group is acceptable. Please do not use a person’s name if you share a personal story. Instead, to protect confidentiality, say something like “Someone I know....”
- **Respect:** Ensure everyone has a chance to speak—time is limited, and we want everyone to have the opportunity to share their ideas.

Slide 10



READ:

This slide is an overview of what we will discuss during the presentation and represents some key steps and parts of our collaboration work. This is a cyclical process, and each part requires a give and take—sharing and listening.

Beginning at the top of the image:

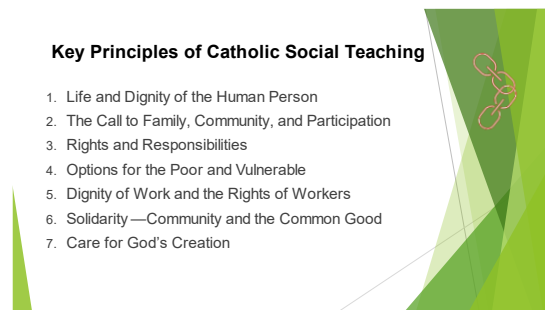
- Faith—The Call to Action: Following CST, *what is* and *what should be* are what drives and motivates us in our relations with government.
- Social Justice Inspiration—The See: We are actively involved in society and seek to identify injustice using the lenses of scripture and CST traditions and carefully reading, reflecting and praying on the “signs of the times.”
- Networking, Team Building and Youth Engagement: All are valuable steps of *the see* and will prove invaluable moving forward with any action we may take.
- The Ask—The Act or To Do: This is where we try to answer questions such as:
 - Who has the critical decision-making power?
 - Who benefits from the situation?
 - Who suffers as things are?
 - This is where the “rubber hits the road,” and we give flesh to the process, stepping out into the public domain to advocate for justice.
- Political and Public Engagement: By now, we will have identified what level of government to collaborate with and begin to brainstorm how that collaboration might happen.
- Evaluate and Celebrate Successes: This step requires us to self-examine and determine changes that might be made moving forward as we return to the Faith—The Call-to-Action phase of the process. It is also where we get to name and celebrate successes and accomplishments of our actions.

Always in the back of our minds is the question, “How is the Spirit of Christ calling us to act for the common good?”

Slide 11

Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person
2. The Call to Family, Community, and Participation
3. Rights and Responsibilities
4. Options for the Poor and Vulnerable
5. Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
6. Solidarity—Community and the Common Good
7. Care for God's Creation



Click to display each bullet.

READ:

The key CST principles are:

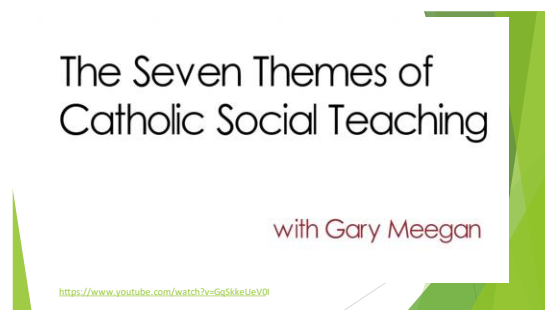
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Slide 12

The Seven Themes of
Catholic Social Teaching

with Gary Meegan

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



Before showing the video ask the participants to consider the following questions:

READ:

- Which of the key principles speaks most strongly to you? Can you explain why?
- Why are these principles only the first step on the journey to social justice?

Click on the “PLAY” arrow.

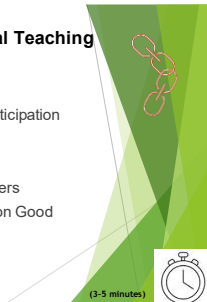
(5 minutes)

Video Source: [youtube.com/watch?v=GqSkkeUeVOI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqSkkeUeVOI)

Slide 13

Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

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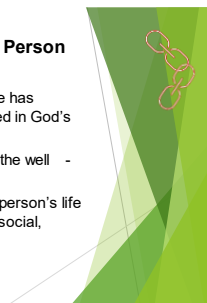
After showing the video, ask the participants to discuss the following questions:

- Which of the key principles speaks most strongly to you? Can you explain why?
 - Why are these principles only the first step on the journey to social justice?
- (3–5 minutes)*

Slide 14

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- The foundation of all CST is that everyone has inherent dignity because they were created in God's image and likeness.
- The church calls us to be concerned with the well-being of all.
- We are called to value and respect each person's life and dignity regarding economic, political, social, ecological and spiritual needs.



Click to display each bullet.

READ:

The following slides (14-20) briefly explain each key CST principle as paraphrased from “10 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching,” a document provided by Development and Peace—Caritas Canada. *The link is included below if you want to view the entire document.*

The Life and Dignity of the Human Person:

- The foundation of all CST is that everyone has inherent dignity because they were created in God's image and likeness.
- The church calls us to be concerned with the well-being of all.
- We are called to value and respect each person's life and dignity regarding economic, political, social, ecological and spiritual needs.

Every person is created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, every person’s life and dignity must be respected and supported from conception through natural death. We believe the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

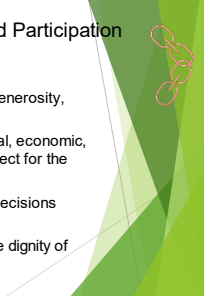
Source: stmikes.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/180-Catholic-Teaching-v2.pdf

Slide 15

Family, Community, Subsidiarity and Participation

We are called to:

- be family —*families* that are schools of generosity, patience and dialogue.
- be community —contributing to the cultural, economic, political and social life while showing respect for the needs of others.
- subsidiarity —entitled to have a voice in decisions affecting our lives.
- participation —how we interact affects the dignity of individuals and the progress of society.



Click to display each bullet.

READ:

The Call to Family, Community, Subsidiarity and Participation:

- We are called to be family—*families* that are schools of generosity, patience and dialogue.
- We are called to be community—contributing to the cultural, economic, political and social life while showing respect for the needs of others.
- We are called to subsidiarity—entitled to have a voice in decisions affecting our lives.
- We are called to participation—how we interact affects the dignity of individuals and the progress of society.

The human person is not only sacred but social. How we organize society—socially, economically, legally and politically—directly affects human dignity and the ability of every human person to grow in community. Marriage and family, the foundations for social life, should be strengthened and supported. Every person has a right to participate in society and a corresponding duty to work to advance the common good and the well-being of all.

Source: stmikes.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/180-Catholic-Teaching-v2.pdf

Slide 16

Rights and Responsibilities

- Each person has the right to live as God intended, but this right is linked with the rights of others.
- We have a responsibility not to take more at another's expense.
- Human society requires that we contribute to a civic order with rights and responsibilities for all.



Click to display each bullet.

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- We have a responsibility not to take more at another's expense.
- Human society requires that we contribute to a civic order with rights and responsibilities for all.

Every person has a fundamental right to life, which makes all other rights possible. Each person also has a right to the conditions for living a decent life—food, health care, housing, education and employment. We have a duty to secure and respect these rights for others and fulfill our responsibilities to our families, each other and society.

Source: stmikes.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/180-Catholic-Teaching-v2.pdf

Slide 17

Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

- God's love is universal. He calls us to be in solidarity with the vulnerable.
- The needs of the poor come before the wants of the rich.
- The rights of workers come before profit.
- The preservation of the earth comes before uncontrolled industrialization.
- Production for people's basic needs comes before production for military purposes.



Click to display each bullet.

READ:

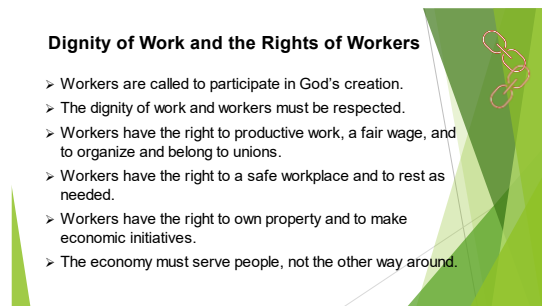
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Scripture teaches that God has a particular concern for the poor and vulnerable. The church calls on us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. This preferential option for the poor and vulnerable should be reflected in our daily lives and public policies. A fundamental measure of a society is how we care for and stand with the poor and vulnerable.

Source: stmikes.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/180-Catholic-Teaching-v2.pdf

Slide 18



Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- Workers are called to participate in God’s creation.
- The dignity of work and workers must be respected.
- Workers have the right to productive work, a fair wage, and to organize and belong to unions.
- Workers have the right to a safe workplace and to rest as needed.
- Workers have the right to own property and to make economic initiatives.
- The economy must serve people, not the other way around.

Click to display each bullet.

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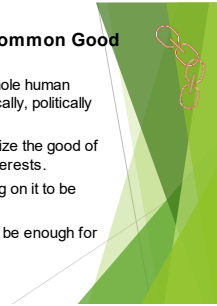
The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living—it is a form of continuing participation in God’s creation. The basic rights of workers—the right to productive work, fair and livable wages, and to organize and join a union—must be respected to uphold the dignity of work.

Source: stmikes.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/180-Catholic-Teaching-v2.pdf

Slide 19

Solidarity - Community and the Common Good

- We must all consider the good of the whole human family in organizing society —economically, politically and legally.
- We must love one another and prioritize the good of the human family over commercial interests.
- God intended the earth and everything on it to be available to everyone.
- With justice and charity, there should be enough for all.



Click to display each bullet.

READ:

Solidarity—Community and the Common Good:

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- We must love one another and prioritize the good of the human family over commercial interests.
- God intended the earth and everything on it to be available to everyone.
- With justice and charity, there should be enough for all.

We are one human family. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbour has global dimensions. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Our love for one another calls us to seek a peaceful and just society where goods are distributed fairly, opportunity is promoted equally, and the dignity of all is respected.

Source: stmikes.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/180-Catholic-Teaching-v2.pdf

Slide 20

Care for God's Creation

- God created the earth, and it is sacred.
- Earth is ecologically diverse, beautiful and life - sustaining and worth preserving.
- We have a duty to protect and cherish it for the good of all and our descendants.
- As the human family, God calls and inspires us to be creative and responsible for creation.

The slide features a green geometric background with a white line forming a triangle. A red chain-link icon is positioned in the upper right. A small green triangle is on the left side.

Click to display each bullet.

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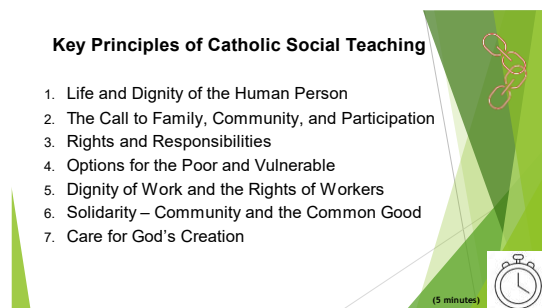
The world that God created is entrusted to us all. Stewardship of the earth is a form of participation in God's act of creating and sustaining the world. In our use of creation, we must be guided by a concern for future generations. We show our respect for the Creator through our care for creation.

Source: stmikes.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/180-Catholic-Teaching-v2.pdf

Slide 21

Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

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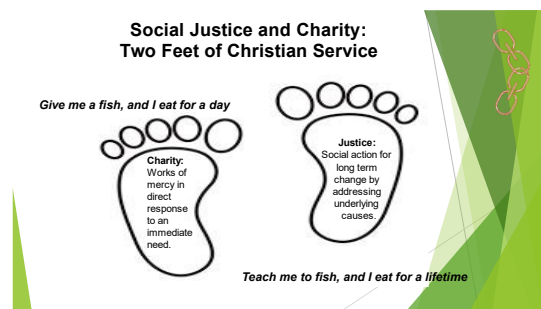
READ:

In a small group (no more than four participants), select two of these key principles and brainstorm one way in which you, individually or with others, could advocate to bring about a change that would reflect the principle. **(5 minutes)**

- An example for #1 might be that as a parish council, you support a local organization working to ensure victims of family violence have a safe place to go when they are in danger.
- An example for #5 might be that you individually approach a local business that is not giving its staff appropriate break times. Then, you work with the owner/manager to educate them about this requirement.
- An example for #7 might be coordinating with friends or family members to do a spring cleanup of a local area and remove litter and garbage.

Leave the slide on the screen so participants can refer to it during their discussions. After five minutes, invite group sharing. (5 minutes)

Slide 22



Click to display each bullet.

READ:

Social Justice and Charity: Two Feet of Christian Service

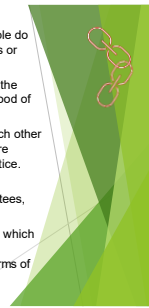
Charity: Give me a fish, and I eat for a day. Works of mercy happen in direct response to an immediate need.

Justice: Teach me to fish, and I eat for a lifetime—action for long-term change by addressing underlying causes. Social justice is bringing about long-term changes concerned with the underlying systemic causes of poverty and injustice.

Source: usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/two-feet-of-love-in-action

Slide 23

- **Human Dignity:** All people are created in the image of God. People do not lose dignity because of disability, poverty, age, lack of success or race. This emphasizes people over things, being over having.
- **The Common Good:** Individuals live in common with others, and the rights of individuals must be balanced with the broader common good of all.
- **Solidarity:** When one suffers, all suffer. Our responsibilities to each other cross national, racial, economic and ideological differences. We are called to work with those who struggle and those who work for justice.
- **Care for Creation:** The world's goods are meant for all. We are responsible for caring for the earth and its goods as stewards/trustees, not as mere consumers and users.
- **Option for the Poor:** See the world through the eyes of the poor which leads to action for justice with and on behalf of the poor and marginalized. We are called to look at public policy decisions in terms of how they affect people experiencing poverty.



Click to display each bullet.

READ:

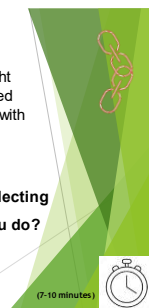
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Slide 24

Vote With Your Feet

Select the statement that most resonates with you right now. Then, form a group with others who have selected the same statement. Discuss the following questions with others who have chosen this statement:

1. **Why this statement and why now?**
2. **Where do you see the work of the League reflecting the meaning of this statement in the work you do?**



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- Why this statement and why now?
- Where do you see the work of the League reflecting the meaning of this statement in the work you do?

Discuss.

(7–10 minutes)

If there is time, invite large group sharing.

Skip to the next slide so the quotes are on the screen for everyone to see.

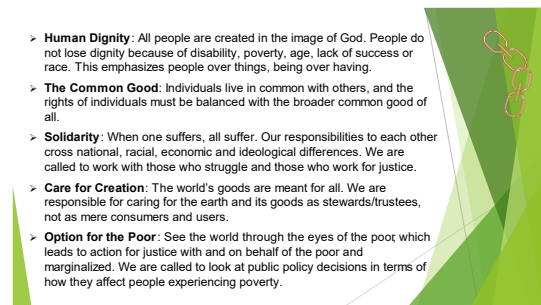
PREPARATION FOR THIS ACTIVITY:

- *The statements could be printed on 11x14 paper and posted on the walls, and the members circulate and stand before their chosen statement. This allows for some movement during the workshop.*

or

- *A copy of the statement can be placed on tables for members to discuss which statement they have chosen to talk about.*

Slide 25



> **Human Dignity:** All people are created in the image of God. People do not lose dignity because of disability, poverty, age, lack of success or race. This emphasizes people over things, being over having.

> **The Common Good:** Individuals live in common with others, and the rights of individuals must be balanced with the broader common good of all.

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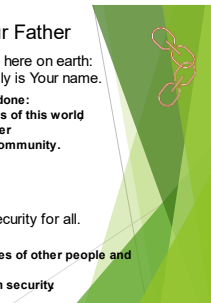
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Slide 26



Closing Prayer: Adapted Our Father

Left: Our God who is in heaven, And all of us here on earth:
The hungry, the oppressed, the excluded. Holy is Your name.

Right: May Your reign come and Your will be done:
In our choice to struggle with the complexities of this world
And to confront greed and the desire for power
In ourselves, in our nation, and in the global community.

Left: Give us this day our daily bread:
Bread that we are called to share,
Bread that You have given us abundantly
And that we must distribute fairly, ensuring security for all.

Right: Forgive us our trespasses:
Times we have turned away from the struggles of other people and
countries,
Times when we have thought only of our own security

READ:

We will recite our closing prayer in choirs as if we are speaking to one another. We will alternate paragraphs as left and right.

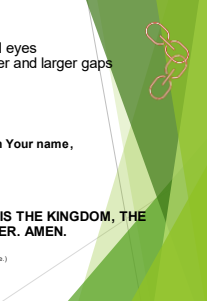
Left: Our God who is in heaven, And all of us here on earth:
The hungry, the oppressed, the excluded. Holy is Your name.

Right: May Your reign come and Your will be done:
In our choice to struggle with the complexities of this world,
And to confront greed and the desire for power
In ourselves, in our nation, and in the global community.

Left: Give us this day our daily bread:
Bread that we are called to share,
Bread that You have given us abundantly
And that we must distribute fairly, ensuring security for all

Right: Forgive us our trespasses:
Times we have turned away from the struggles of other people and countries,
Times when we have thought only of our own security.

Slide 27



Left: Lead us not into temptation:
The temptation to close our minds, ears, and eyes
To the unfair global systems that create larger and larger gaps
between the rich and the poor,
The temptation to think it is too difficult
To bring about more just alternatives.

Right: Deliver us from evil:
The evil of a world where violence happens in Your name,
Where wealth for a few is more important
Than economic rights for all,
Where gates and barriers between people
Are so hard to bring down.

**ALL: MAY YOUR REIGN COME, FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM, THE
POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.**

(The Lord's Prayer: An Adaptation, taken from Center of Concern/Education for Justice.)

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The evil of a world where violence happens in Your name,
Where wealth for a few is more important
Than economic rights for all,
Where gates and barriers between people
Are so hard to bring down.

ALL: May Your reign come, for Yours is the kingdom,
The power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Source: The Lord's Prayer: An Adaptation, taken from Center of Concern/Education for Justice