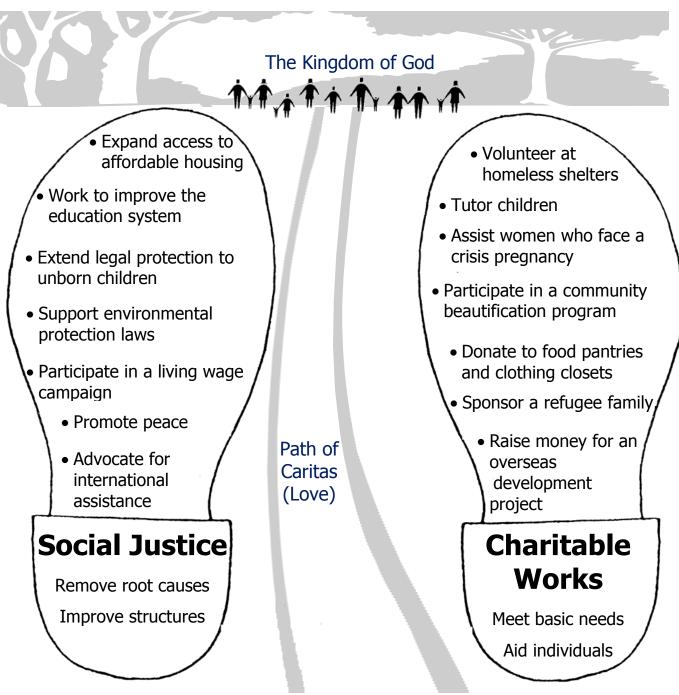
The Two Feet of Love in Action



"The conscience is called by this social teaching to recognize and fulfill the obligations of **justice and charity** in society." (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church,* no. 83)

"**Social justice**. . . concerns the social, political and economic aspects and, above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions." (*Compendium,* no. 201)

"The Church cannot neglect the service of **charity** any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word. . . . Those who are able make offerings in accordance with their means . . . to support orphans, widows, the sick and those who for other reasons find themselves in need, such as prisoners and foreigners." (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, no. 22)



Love cultivates compassion in our hearts and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need, and moves us to respond in an ongoing and continuous manner. The "Two Feet of Love in Action" describe how love is concretely expressed in action. In the table below, first reflect on how the Social Justice and Charitable Works responses are different. Why are both types of responses necessary? Second, in the last row, choose an issue you are interested in and then write down some possible ways to respond. In the first column, focus on Social Justice actions that can help address root causes. In the second column, identify Charitable Works that can aid individuals.

	Social Justice	Charitable Works
	- Focuses on the rights and duties of individuals, families and all creation	- Focuses on the basic needs of individuals, families and all creation
	- Analyzes social situations and structures	- Looks at individual situations of need
General Responses	- Works for long-term social chang.	- Meets an immediate need
	- Addresses the underlying social causes of individual problems	- Addresses painful personal symptoms of social problems
	 Seeks just laws, fair social structures, and peace 	- Relies on the generosity of donors
Example:	- Extend legal protection to unborn children	- Provide prenatal care and medical services for poor women
Responses to Abortion	- Adopt pro-family public policies that help families with children	- Offer crisis pregnancy services, e.g., counseling and transitional housing support.
Example:	- Raise the minimum wage so workers can afford housing	- Volunteer at a homeless shelter
Responses to Homelessness	- Expand affordable housing	- Give fast food certificates to homeless persons who ask for help
	- Expand job training opportunities and education	- Donate to an organization that does outreach to homeless persons