



"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)



The Two Feet of Love *in Action*

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
General Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focuses on the rights and duties of individuals, families and all creation - Analyzes social situations and structures - Works for long-term social change. - Addresses the underlying social causes of individual problems - Seeks just laws, fair social structures, and peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focuses on the basic needs of individuals, families and all creation - Looks at individual situations of need - Meets an immediate need - Addresses painful personal symptoms of social problems - Relies on the generosity of donors
Example: Responses to Abortion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extend legal protection to unborn children - Adopt pro-family public policies that help families with children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide prenatal care and medical services for poor women - Offer crisis pregnancy services, e.g., counseling and transitional housing support.
Example: Responses to Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise the minimum wage so workers can afford housing - Expand affordable housing - Expand job training opportunities and education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer at a homeless shelter - Give fast food certificates to homeless persons who ask for help - Donate to an organization that does outreach to homeless persons