

Name _____ Date _____

Lesson 3: *A Place at the Table*
Participant Handout 3A
Families and Individuals

Directions: Read the following passage from the United States Catholic bishops' pastoral reflection *A Place at the Table*. Using words, pictures or symbols complete the following two tasks:

- Summarize the passage. Describe the "leg" on the table; and
- Identify ways that families and individuals can address poverty both in the United States and throughout the world.

Introduction

"Our efforts to serve and stand with the poor recognize and build on the essential roles and responsibilities of four institutions. In a sense, the table we seek for all rests on these four institutions, or legs: (1) what families and individuals can do, (2) what community and religious institutions can do, (3) what the private sector can do, and (4) what the government can do to work together to overcome poverty."

Families and Individuals

"A first leg of the table is what *families and individuals* are called to do. Every person has a responsibility to respect the dignity of others and to work to secure not only their own rights but also the rights of others. Every day, parents throughout the world make sacrifices for the well-being of their children. Parents are the guardians of the life and dignity of their children. Support for marriage and family life is at the center of our campaign to restore dignity and to overcome poverty for children. Public policy and all our institutions must reward, encourage, and support parents, including single parents, who make wise decisions for their children. Their hard work, their love and discipline, and their time and presence within their families are a gift not only to their children, but to our society and to the common good. They are also significant investments in avoiding or escaping poverty."