

Name _____ Date _____

Lesson 3: *A Place at the Table*
Participant Handout 3B
Community Organizations and Faith-Based Institutions

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 community organizations and faith-based institutions 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."

Community Organizations and Faith-based Institutions

"A second leg of the table is the role and responsibility of community organizations and faith-based institutions. These institutions can help families make good choices and overcome discrimination and other obstacles. They can confront structures of injustice and build community, and they can demand accountability from public officials. Faith is a religious commitment; it is also a community resource. On the toughest problems, in the toughest, most desperate neighborhoods and villages, religious and community institutions are present and making a difference. In the United States, the growing attention to faith-based and other community institutions is overdue recognition of the work of Catholic schools, Catholic health care institutions, Catholic Charities, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and other groups. Here and abroad, our parishes and schools must continue to be clear about their identity and mission and must continue to be beacons of hope and centers of help for poor families and communities."