

Lesson 4
Facilitator Handout
Charitable Works and Social Justice
Warm-Up Reflections

"I want to satisfy this desire of Our Lord. . . by going amongst the people—nursing the sick in their homes—helping the dying make their peace with God, having little free schools in the slums for the little children—visiting the poor in the hospitals—and helping the beggars of the streets lead respectful lives.—In a word, act the charity of Christ among the poorest—and so make them know Him."

- Mother Teresa to Archbishop Périer, Feast of Corpus Christi, June 5, 1947

"This is the mission entrusted to the church, a hard mission: to uproot sins from history, to uproot sins from the political order, to uproot sins from the economy, to uproot sins wherever they are. . . . The church must suffer for speaking the truth, for pointing out sin, for uprooting sin. No one wants to have a sore spot touched, and therefore a society with so many sores twitches when someone has the courage to touch it and say: 'You have to treat that. You have to get rid of that. Believe in Christ. Be converted.'"

- Archbishop Oscar Romero, Jan. 15, 1978

"I don't know what their success will be—but if the Missionaries of Charity have brought joy to one unhappy home—made one innocent child from the street keep pure for Jesus—one dying person die in peace with God—don't you think, Your Grace, it would be worth offering everything—for just that one—because that one would bring great joy to the Heart of Jesus."

- Mother Teresa to Archbishop Périer, Feast of Corpus Christi, June 5, 1947

"The Christian knows that Christ has been working in humanity for twenty centuries and that the person that is converted to Christ is the new human being that society needs to organize a world according to God's heart."

- Archbishop Oscar Romero, Dec. 3, 1978

“Let me offer myself and those who will join me for those unwanted poor, the little street children, the sick, the dying, the beggars, let me go into their very holes and bring in their broken homes the joy and peace of Christ.”

- Mother Teresa to Archbishop Périer, Mar. 30, 1947

“What marks the genuine church is when the word, burning like the word of the prophets, proclaims and denounces: proclaims to the people God’s wonders to be believed and venerated, and denounces the sins of those who oppose God’s reign, so that they may tear those sins out of their hearts, out of their societies, out of their laws—out of the structures that oppress, that imprison, that violate the rights of God and humanity. This is the hard service of the word.”

- Archbishop Oscar Romero, Dec, 10, 1977

“Let us be pure and humble like Mary and we are sure to be holy like Jesus. . . . because a pure heart can see God in the Poor—a humble heart can love and serve Jesus in the Poor. Remember the five fingers—you—did—it—to—Me. Remember—love begins at home—our community—our family. Remember—works of love are works of peace. . . . Try to be Jesus’ love, Jesus’ compassion, Jesus’ presence to each other and the Poor you serve.”

- Mother Teresa to the Missionaries of Charity Sisters, Brothers, Father, Lay Missionaries, and Co-workers, June 1990

“One of the signs of the present time is the idea of participation, the right of all persons to participate in the construction of their own common good. . . . Everyone can contribute much that is good, and in that way trust is achieved. . . . Thus we can, all of us together, build the republic—the *res publica*, the public concern—what belongs to all of us and what we all have the duty of building.”

- Archbishop Oscar Romero, July 10, 1977

Sources:

Mother Teresa. *Come Be My Light—The Private Writings of the Saint of Calcutta*. Edited by Brian Kolodiejchuk. New York: Doubleday, 2007. Pages 73, 77, 65, and 313-14, respectively. Used with permission.

Oscar Romero. *The Violence of Love*. Translated and compiled by James R. Brockman. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2004. Pages 30, 103, 18, and 3, respectively. Used with permission.