



7 weeks of *Easter*  
themes of *Catholic Social Teaching*

## WEEK 4

# Rights and Responsibilities

In the Easter season, we celebrate all we have received in Christ's self-gift. The Good News should overflow into our lives and move us to mission in the world. Our participation in the communion of saints comes with the important recognition of all that God offers us and the responsibility to be strong witnesses of God's presence in the world.

*"Individual rights, when detached from a framework of duties which grants them their full meaning, can run wild, leading to an escalation of demands which is effectively unlimited and indiscriminate."*

Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, no. 43

### Sacred Scripture

"Open your mouth in behalf of the mute,  
and for the rights of the destitute;  
Open your mouth, judge justly,  
defend the needy and the poor!"

Proverbs 31:8-9

### Sacred Tradition

"These differences belong to God's plan, who wills that each receive what he needs from others, and that those endowed with particular 'talents' share the benefits with those who need them."

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1937

### Catholic Social Teaching in Action



Lift up your voice by exercising your right to participate in our society and use that voice responsibly by advocating for policies that protect human dignity. Learn more about how you can form your conscience to help you advocate for human dignity at [faithfulcitizenship.org](http://faithfulcitizenship.org).

### Prayer for Basic Rights

Lord of Wisdom, awaken us  
to our duty to care for the basic needs of all people.  
Strengthen with hope  
people denied their human rights and freedoms.  
Provide us all with the voice to cry out  
for justice for the poor and the oppressed.  
Amen.