



DIOCESE OF CAMDEN
**Life & Justice
Ministries**

Quick Quiz on the Church's Social Teaching

From Parish Social Ministry: Strategies for Success by Tom Ulrich

Identify the author/speaker responsible for each of the following quotations.

1. *This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own.*

- A) Isaiah (Old Testament prophet)
- B) St. John the Baptist
- C) Martin Luther King, Jr.

2. *You are not making a gift of what is yours to the poor, but you are handing over to them what is theirs. For what has been given in common for the use of everyone, you have arrogated [taken for] yourself. The earth belongs to everyone, and not only to the rich.*

- A) Karl Marx
- B) Plato (ancient philosopher)
- C) St. Ambrose (early Christian saint)

3. *The needs of the poor take priority over the desires of the rich; the rights of workers over the maximization of profits; the preservation of the environment over uncontrolled industrial expansion; production to meet social needs over production for military purposes.*

- A) Fr. Daniel Berrigan (Catholic social activist and anti-nuclear protestor)
- B) Pope John Paul II
- C) Lech Walesa (Polish labor leader active in the Solidarity movement)

4. *At a time of rampant individualism, we stand for family and community. At a time of intense consumerism, we insist it is not what we have, but how we treat one another that counts. In an age that does not value permanence or hard work in relationships, we believe marriage is forever and children are a blessing, not a burden. At a time of growing isolation, we remind our nation of its responsibility to the broader world, to pursue peace, to welcome immigrants, to protect the lives of hurting children and refugees. At a time when the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, we insist the moral test of our society is how we treat and care for the weakest among us.*

- A) Democratic Party Platform
- B) Republican Party Platform
- C) U.S. Catholic Bishops

5. *We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love, we must know each other. We know Him in the breaking of the bread, and we are not alone any more. ... We have all known the long loneliness, and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community.*

- A) Dorothy Day (founder of the Catholic Worker movement)
- B) Fr. John Powell (contemporary Catholic writer)
- C) Mother Teresa (founder of the Missionaries of Charity)

6. *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.*

- A) Jesus
- B) Martin Luther King, Jr.
- C) St. Paul

7. *At the end of life, we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by: "I was hungry and you gave me to eat. I was naked and you clothed me, I was homeless and you took me in." Hungry not only for bread – but hungry for love. Naked not only for clothing – but naked of human dignity and respect. Homeless not only for want of a room of bricks – but homeless because of rejection. This is Christ in distressing disguise.*

- A) Rev. Billy Graham
- B) Mother Teresa
- C) Archbishop Oscar Romero (martyred in El Salvador, 1980)

8. *Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or in other words, of the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation.*

- A) National Council of Catholic Women
- B) Synod of Catholic Bishops (1971)
- C) Council of Trent

9. *The bread, which you do not use, is the bread of the hungry. The garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked. The shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of one who is barefoot. The money you keep locked away is the money of the poor. The acts of charity you do not perform are so many injustices you commit.*

- A) St. Basil the Great (early Christian saint)
- B) St. Francis of Assisi
- C) Cesar Chavez (farm worker, union organizer)

10. *But this (charity) is not enough. ... You will want to seek out the structural reasons which foster or cause the different forms of poverty. ... You must never be content to leave them (the poor) just the crumbs of the feast. You must take of your substance, and not just of your abundance in order to help them.*

- A) Mother Teresa
- B) John Paul II
- C) Jesus of Nazareth

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Ulrich writes: [This is] an example of a quiz that is a great discussion starter. I often hand out something like this when I start a talk, just to make the point about the depth (and sometimes the radical nature) of Catholic social teaching. You might be surprised at the response you get from such a quiz. I am giving you the answers separate from the quiz, so that you can photocopy the quiz if you like. I usually use it to break the ice a bit. Remember not to embarrass anyone who might have the wrong answer. The point is to show that all of us are in the dark to a certain extent. This is a discussion starter, not a discussion ender.

Answers:

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. A
7. B
8. B
9. A
10. B