

This prayer service is best used at the end of the book *Catholic Social Teaching*.

**Prayer Service:  
“Prayer of Commitment to Justice”**

**Needs:**

- a decorated prayer table with the Bible
- Each student should have a prayer journal or paper on which to write reflections.
- a symbol of commitment/some pin, bookmark, etc. that each student can take away as a reminder to their call to justice

**Prayer Introduction**

As we complete our study of Catholic social teaching, we may be tempted to sell our textbooks, throw away our notebooks, and chalk this up as one more completed high school class. Perhaps more than any other class, however, the true assessment of this course is whether the teachings we have learned here are displayed and practiced in our lives. As we began our study, the text told us, “The life of Christ in us by the power of the Holy Spirit enables each of us to be agents of God’s justice in the world. We are called to be part of the solution to a world that hungers for justice” (pg. 11). By virtue of our full initiation as Catholics, we are committed to justice. Today let us pray for the courage to live up to this commitment.

**Opening Prayer**

God of justice and peace,  
you call us to be agents of your justice in the world.  
Give us the vision and the wisdom  
to see the world with your eyes  
and the compassion  
to respond with your love and mercy. Amen.

**Reading 1: Micah 6:6-8**

*You have been told what is good.*

**Pause for Reflection/Journaling**

1. Call to mind, from your studies this semester, some of the people and situations in our world that cry out for justice. Which of these cries do you hear most loudly? Why?
2. What areas of Catholic social teaching are most pressing in our world right now? Why?

**Reading 2: Matthew 5:13-16**

*You are the light of the world.*

**Pause for Reflection/Journaling**

1. In what ways can you respond to the world’s cries for justice?
2. How can you be light and salt for the world?
3. Write some resolutions for your commitment to justice. (For example, “I will write a letter to the editor about an injustice I see in my community,” etc.)

### **Commitment Ceremony**

Leader: If you are committed to living God's justice as presented through Catholic social teaching, please stand and affirm your commitment by saying "I am" to the following questions. With your belief that every human person is made in the image of God, are you willing to treat all people with dignity and encourage others to do the same? **All: I am!**

Leader: With your belief that all life is sacred, from womb to tomb, are you willing to work toward creating a society that protects all human life? **All: I am!**

Leader: With your belief that we live most productively in healthy families and communities, are you willing to participate in the life of your family and in the workings of the communities to which you belong? **I am!**

Leader: With your belief that with your human rights comes a responsibility to respect the rights of others, are you willing to speak out when the rights of others are neglected or violated? **All: I am!**

Leader: With your belief that we belong to an interdependent world in which the common good is of highest value, are you willing to put your own personal desires aside when those around you are in need of your attention and assistance? **All: I am!**

Leader: With your belief that Jesus calls us to a preferential care for those who are poor and vulnerable, are you willing to give of your time, talent, and treasure in assistance to those who are most in material need? **All: I am!**

Leader: With your belief that there is dignity and value in work, are you willing to work diligently and honorably in any job that you hold and to speak out when workers rights are not being respected? **All: I am!**

Leader: With your belief that we belong to one worldwide community, are you willing to live in solidarity with your global brothers and sisters in creating a more peaceful world? **All: I am!**

Leader: With your belief that humanity has been given the responsibility for caring for the earth and its resources, are you willing to be careful consumers and caretakers of all that the earth provides for us? **All: I am!**

Leader: In the name of the Church, I thank you for your promises here today and offer you my prayers in keeping the commitments you have made. As a reminder of these prayers, I would like to give you this symbol of justice. Whenever you look at it, remember that you are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. (*Pass out symbols.*)

### **Sign of Peace**

Leader: We are one community of faith. Let us support each other by offering to one another a sign of peace.

