

O.T. XXV1 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Today is social justice Sunday.

And we have two great advocates of social justice in our readings
In the first reading the prophet Amos and Jesus in the gospel.
Amos issues a powerful warning to those who seek wealth at the
expense of the poor and who spend their time and their money on
themselves alone. He warns them of the punishment awaiting
them.

In the gospel parable Jesus gives us a warning pointing to the
destiny of the rich man who neglected his duty to show mercy to
poor Lazarus. The rich man was punished not because he was rich,
but for neglecting the teaching of scripture with regard to social
justice.

So let us think today about those less fortunate than ourselves:-

Those who are the hungriest

Those with disabilities

Those facing persecution

Those suffering from the effects of war and violence

Those suffering from diseases such the millions affected by aids in
Africa.

And at home the many aged people who are sick and alone.

And many more.

People such as these were the very ones who were central to
Christ's mission on earth.

As Christians we are called to be inspired by, and to imitate, Jesus
love and care, and to make the needs of the needy our needs.

Pope Paul VI called us to build a world where Lazarus can sit
down at the same table with the rich man.

Jesus our God and guide sat down at tables such as this. He also
left us in the Eucharist a sacramental gift that satisfies our spiritual

hunger, but at the same time reminds us of the bounty of God's table, from which we are called to care for most vulnerable at home and in our world.

Statistics tell us, that in our world today over 1 billion people are living on an income of less than \$1.50 per day. Over a quarter of a million women still die in childbirth annually, this is especially emphasized by the situation at Rangala Baby Home, where the majority of the mothers of the 40 babies in the home have died from this condition.

We could quote many more statistics such as the 8 million children around the world, who die from malnutrition or preventable diseases each year. And so on

In Australia this year the Bishops have asked us to think about the plight of the elderly many suffering from alzheimers, many who are lonely and feel abandoned and of course those who are sick. (pamphlets at the back of the church)

So what are we called to do.

Firstly financial support for the many Church agencies who, on our behalf tend to the needs of the disadvantaged, at home and abroad.

Caritas is the main agency responding to needs internationally.

Catholic mission are active an many countries

Our Rangala project which I will speak about shortly.

And at home

St Vincent de Paul do a marvelous job

The Archbishops Life-link agencies also do wonderful work.

Then we could try some hands on help.

We may have relatives or friends sick or aged who we could visit and care for.

We could join our St Vincent de Paul parish conference, We could join the Legion of Mary in their outreach to people in the parish. It just takes a little thought and of course our prayers.

We could look at the example of St Teresa of Calcutta and St. Mary of the Cross Mackillop.

St Teresa said

“Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely, the unwanted, according to the graces we have received”

and

“If you can’t feed a hundred people then just feed one”

And the principle that St Mary of the Cross lived by :-

“Never see a need without doing something about it”.

And now some words about Rangala