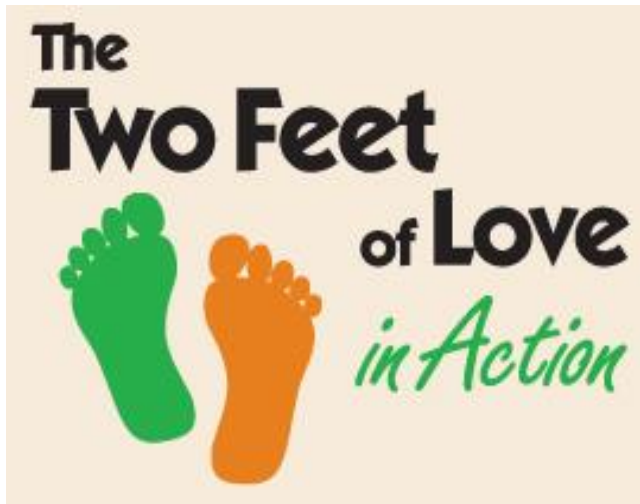


Two Feet of Catholic Social Teaching



As disciples of Christ on His mission in the world we are called to put Two Feet of Love in Action!

Two distinct, but complementary, ways by which we put the Gospel in action in response to God's love.

- **Charitable Works** - short-term, immediate or emergency assistance for individuals.
- **Social Justice** - addressing systemic, root causes of problems that affect many people.

Charitable Works



Charitable Works - our "response to immediate needs and specific situations: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for and healing the sick, visiting those in prison, etc."

(Deus Caritas Est, no. 31).

To step with the Charitable Works foot we:

- work to **aid or assist others**
- **locally and globally**
- to meet **immediate, short-term needs.**

Examples include helping those in need by

- Engaging in **direct service** or
- **providing** food, clothing, shelter,
- **monetary assistance**

Social Justice



Social Justice "concerns the social, political, and economic aspects and, above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions" (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 201).

To step with the Social Justice foot we

- **address the *root causes* of problems**
- Work to **change social structures** that contribute to suffering and injustice at home and around the world.

Examples include:

- **Advocating** for just public policies
- Lobbying / Supporting legislative action

Charity & Justice Examples

Charitable Works

Meet basic needs / Aid individuals & groups

- Volunteer at homeless shelters
- Donate to food pantries and clothing closets
- Tutor children
- Assist women who face a crisis pregnancy
- Participate in a community beautification program
- Sponsor a refugee family
- Raise money for an overseas development project
- Visit & minister to those in prison

Social Justice

Remove root causes / Improve Structures

- Advocate for affordable housing
- Lobby for a living wage // Pursue creation of a food pantry program
- Work to improve education systems
- Extend legal protection to unborn children
- Support environmental protection laws
- Lobby for just immigration laws
- Promote peace & international aid
- Assure a fair criminal justice system and just prison system