

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Handout 2F: Reflection**

Directions: Reflect on the quotations below. On the back of this handout, write a portion of a quotation that you find particularly meaningful. How is God calling you to help tear down the "wall of poverty?"

"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."

--Isaiah 58:6-7

"I know that you as young people have great aspirations, that you want to pledge yourselves to build a better world. Let others see this, let the world see it."

- Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at World Youth Day, 2005

"The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society . . . is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity. . . The mission of the lay faithful is therefore to configure social life correctly."

-- Pope Benedict XVI, *God is Love*, 2005, no. 29

"A society of genuine solidarity can be built only if...we consider it an honor to be able to devote our care and attention to the needs of our brothers and sisters in difficulty.... Those living in poverty can wait no longer. They need help now...."

-- Pope John Paul II, *Message for World Day of Peace*, January 1, 1998, no. 8

“Men and women who are made ‘new’ by the love of God are able to change the rules and the quality of relationships, transforming even social structures. They are people capable of bringing peace where there is conflict, of building and nurturing fraternal relationships where there is hatred, of seeking justice where there prevails the exploitation of man by man.”

-- *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 2004, par. 4

“The responsibility for alleviating the plight of the poor falls upon all members of society. As individuals, all citizens have a duty to assist the poor through acts of charity and personal commitment. But private charity and voluntary action are not sufficient. We also carry out our moral responsibility to assist and empower the poor by working collectively through government to establish just and effective public policies.”

-- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Economic Justice for All: Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy*, 1986, no. 189

“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?

So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

--James 2:14-17

“As Catholics, we must come together with a common conviction that we can no longer tolerate the moral scandal of poverty in our land and so much hunger and deprivation in our world. As believers, we can debate how best to overcome these realities, but we must be united in our determination to do so. Our faith teaches us that poor people are not issues or problems but sisters and brothers in God's one human family.”

-- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *A Place at the Table*, 2002

“The equal dignity of persons demands that a more humane and just condition of life be brought about. For excessive economic and social differences between the members of the one human family or population groups cause scandal, and militate against social justice, equity, the dignity of the human person, as well as social and international peace.”

-- The Second Vatican Council, *The Church in the Modern World*, 1965, no. 29