

Name _____ Date _____

Lesson 3: A Place at the Table
Participant Handout 3C
Private Sector / Business

Directions: Read the following passage from the United States Catholic bishops' pastoral reflection, *A Place at the Table*. Using words, pictures or symbols complete the following two tasks:

- Summarize the passage. Describe the "leg" on the table; and
- Identify ways that the private sector/business can address poverty both in the United States and throughout the world.

Introduction

"Our efforts to serve and stand with the poor recognize and build on the essential roles and responsibilities of four institutions. In a sense, the table we seek for all rests on these four institutions, or legs: (1) what families and individuals can do, (2) what community and religious institutions can do, (3) what the private sector can do, and (4) what the government can do to work together to overcome poverty."

Private Sector / Business

"A third leg of the table is *the marketplace and institutions of business, commerce, and labor*. The private sector must be not only an engine of growth and productivity, but also a reflection of our values and priorities, a contributor to the common good. Examples of greed and misconduct must be replaced with models of corporate responsibility. Both employers and the labor movement must help the poorest workers to have a voice and a place at the table where wages and working conditions are set. A key measure of the marketplace is whether it provides decent work and wages for people, especially those on the margins of economic life. Parents need to be able to provide a life of dignity for their children by their work. Workers and farmers in this country and around the world need living wages; access to health care; vacation time and family and medical leave; a voice and real participation in the workplace; and the prospect of a decent retirement. Work must be an escape from poverty, not another version of it."