

Faith That Does Justice

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

By: Fr. Nono Alfonso, S.J.

November 4, 2023

Faith should penetrate all dimensions of our lives. Faith is not just about praying and worshipping on Sundays. We have to live our faith wherever we are. Our Church, led by the Vatican, gets involved with worldwide issues. Pope Francis engages with the world through dialogue on issues/concerns that are troubling mankind. There is a social dimension to our faith. Faith flows into action and it is a faith that does justice.

1. Today's contemporary problems:

- 1.1. The war between Israel-Palestine.
- 1.2. The war between Ukraine and Russia.
- 1.3. Climate Change.

2. Faith Questions: When we look at social problems, what is faith telling us about them?

2.1. **Forgiveness vs Justice:** During the election of Marcos Jr., there were two opposing views: (a) He is not accountable for his father's sins. Everyone should "Forgive, forget and move on!" (b) What about justice for the 4,000 people killed and the numerous "desparecidos"?

2.2. **Hopelessness and Despair.** During the elections, many people thought there is no hope – nothing will change anyway. However, with solidarity, we can hold a candle of hope and achieve something.

2.3. **Do the poor deserve their fate?** Some people ask - why is the church persisting in helping the poor? They are to be blamed for their situation for being lazy. Is this true?

3. Faith Answers to Social Questions: Let's engage our faith heritage on social issues. There is justice in the Bible. Foremost among them is about right relationships. If we love God, we ought to have the right relationship with Him and with our neighbor. This is fundamental.

3.1. **The dignity of human beings comes from God (Genesis 1).** Human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. God has restored dignity to each of us. It is inviolable because it came directly from God. This is

the foundation of human rights in the world. The children being killed in Israel & Palestine are children of God. The same is true for drug addicts. If the persecutors view them as human beings, they would not be killed.

3.2. **God is the protector and liberator of the poor (Exodus).** Moses liberated a small group of people from slavery in Egypt. Yahweh told Moses through the burning bush, "...liberate them from the oppression." God identifies with the powerless (the poor, orphans, widows, etc). Thus, the Church has the "Preferential Option for the Poor." It is a stand against abusive power.

3.3. **The Prophets established an ethical code. (Micah 6:8). "Do justice. Love mercy. Walk humbly."** They spoke in behalf of God, and reminded the powerful and wealthy that God is the protector of the poor.

3.4. **Jesus came to fulfill the law.** In His teachings, Jesus reminded Israel about the ethical mores of the Old Testament: feed the hungry, care for the sick... (Mt 25:35). Jesus emptied Himself of His divinity to save us. Our God is consistently pro-poor (Mt 5:6). Mother Teresa was able to help the poor for 30 years, because she saw Jesus in each of them.

3.5. **The Apostles tried to live with the ethical code as a community, sharing everything that they have (Acts 2:45).**

Conclusion: Our dignity comes from God, no matter what the world tells us. He sees our hearts, not our appearances. He loves us no matter what. Our faith is the only religion that has answers to social issues.

Reflection:

1. How do the Biblical Teachings on a "Faith that does Justice" inspire you?
2. Do they give you a greater appreciation of your faith and love for your God.
3. How do they challenge you?

Scribes Ministry:

Transcriber/Writer: Sis Jo Advincula

For more teachings, visit our website:

<https://lordsflock.org/teachings/digests>

Tags: #Faith #Justice