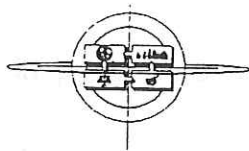


GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH IN OUR EFFORTS FOR JUSTICE



Mission

"Listening to the cry of those who suffer violence and are oppressed by unjust systems and structures, and hearing the appeal of a world that by its perversity contradicts the plan of its Creator, we have shared our awareness of the Church's vocation to be present in the heart of the world by proclaiming the Good News to the poor, freedom to the oppressed and joy to the afflicted." (Justice in the World, 1971: 5.)

Guiding Principles

We Sisters of St. Joseph adopt the dictum that: "Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or, in other words, of the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation." (Justice in the World, 1971: 6.) In the New Testament we are called upon to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, love our neighbor and minister to the oppressed. Therefore, as we stand with and seek justice for all, we shall advocate and act to assure:

- ✱ Food, clothing, shelter and health care which are adequate, accessible, decent and affordable
- ✱ A right to work that is safe, recognizes the dignity of the worker, and provides a living wage
- ✱ A right to economic security in the event of the inability to work
- ✱ Quality public education for all
- ✱ Equal rights and freedoms under the Constitution without distinction
- ✱ A peaceful and non-violent local and global community
- ✱ A healthy and sustained planetary environment
- ✱ A right to seek, receive and impart accurate/truthful information through any media.

The common good requires that every person be able to share in the basic goods and opportunities necessary to live truly human lives. Citizens individually, government and all social bodies and structures must exercise social responsibility and have a commitment to the common good.

Principles To Be Applied in the Current Social and Political Arenas

Individual liberties guaranteed under the Constitution and stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights must be recognized, protected and preserved

Religious liberty and the separation of church and state must be respected and preserved.

All persons have a fundamental right to live in a world at peace, in security and free of violence.

The root causes of violence in society must be recognized, analyzed and remedied

The root causes of poverty must be recognized, analyzed and remedied.

The root causes of the growing economic gap between the wealthy and marginalized must be recognized, analyzed and remedied.