

CST 101 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A discussion guide from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services

OPENING PRAYER: Together, pray, “Prayer of the Other.”

WATCH: “CST 101: Rights and Responsibilities” on YouTube.

PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE:

Read this Scripture passage twice.

Invite participants to reflect silently after it is read the first time.

“There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

And he cried out, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.’ Abraham replied, ‘My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too

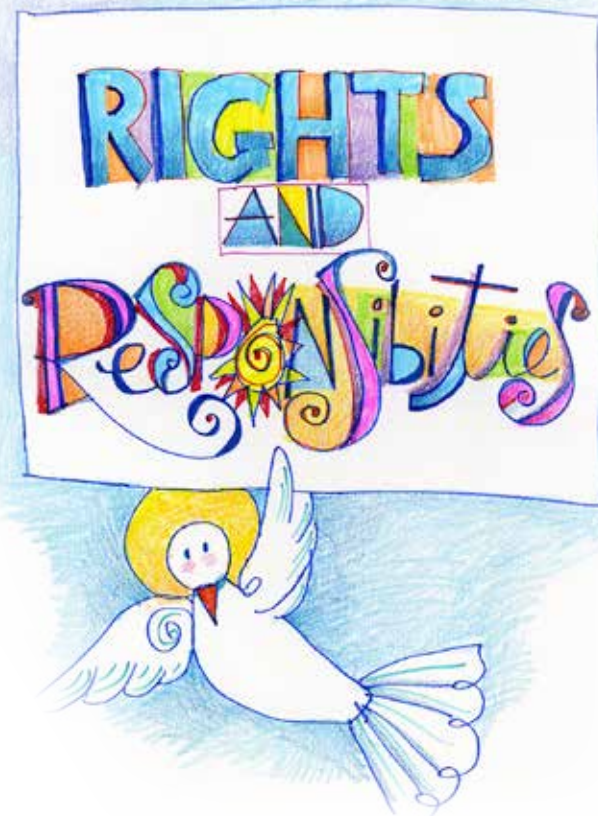


Photo courtesy of Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS

come to this place of torment.’ But Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.’ He said, ‘Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ Then Abraham said, ‘If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.’” (Luke 16:19-31)

SHARE:

As you reflect on this passage, do you find yourself connecting more with Lazarus or the rich man? Why?

REFLECT ON TRADITION:

Read these passages aloud.

“We must speak of man’s rights. Man has the right to live. He has the right to bodily integrity and to the means necessary for the proper development of life, particularly food, clothing, shelter, medical care, rest, and, finally, the necessary social services. In consequence, he has the right to be looked after in the event of ill health; disability stemming from his work; widowhood; old age; enforced unemployment; or whenever through no fault of his own he is deprived of the means of livelihood.”

—St. John XXIII, *Peace on Earth (Pacem in Terris)*, no. 11

“In human society one man’s natural right gives rise to a corresponding duty in other men; the duty, that is, of recognizing and respecting that right. Every basic human right draws its authoritative force from the natural law, which confers it and attaches to it its respective duty. Hence, to claim one’s rights and ignore one’s duties, or only half fulfill them, is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other.”

—St. John XXIII, *Peace on Earth (Pacem in Terris)*, no. 30

DISCUSS:

- Where do you see or hear about rights being violated in your community or around the world? Whose responsibility is it to ensure those rights are protected or fulfilled?
- How might God be inviting you to advocate to protect the rights you feel most passionate about, and to ensure that corresponding duties are fulfilled?

ACT:

In the CST 101 video, we hear that one way we can help fulfill our own responsibility to work for the common good is by asking our elected representatives to enact policies that protect people’s rights and responsibilities.

Visit [CRS' Campaigns Action Center](#) and [USCCB's Action Center](#) to learn about legislative advocacy and current issues that address poverty both in the U.S. and around the world. How will you get involved?

SEND:

Loving God, help us do everything we can to build a society where all people are able to exercise their human rights and fulfill their responsibilities. Amen

Visit crs.org/CST-101 or usccb.org/cst for all CST 101 resources, including the prayers, stories and videos linked to in these discussion guides.



This text may be reproduced in whole or in part without alteration for nonprofit educational use, provided such reprints are not sold and include this notice.

Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible, revised edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C., and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the New American Bible may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Pope John XXIII, *Pacem in terris* © 1963, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City. Used with permission. All rights reserved.