

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Hilarion Mitchell

"for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,"
Matthew 25:35

Thanksgiving and Social Justice

Thanksgiving is a time when gratitude abounds for the many blessings bestowed upon us. Yet, when viewed through a social justice lens, it also highlights who is missing both literally and figuratively from our tables. Their absence is a stark reminder that gratitude must also lead to action.



Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and Corporal Works of Mercy

We are called to share God's abundance with others. Catholic Social Teaching and the Corporal Works of Mercy offer two gospel frameworks for responding to the needs of others. Through CST, we are invited to reflect not only on charity but on creating systems that prevent suffering and promote equity. The Corporal Works of Mercy offer tangible ways like feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, etc. Together, they are a compass for caring for the vulnerable and marginalized through observances such as the following.

- **World Homeless Day** (Oct. 10)

Raises awareness about the needs of people experiencing homelessness and promotes work in local communities to alleviate suffering and prevent death. It also celebrates good works, benchmark progress, advocates for improved policies and funding that can help prevent and end homelessness.

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The 2024 “Everyone Counts” PointinTime (PiT) homelessness enumeration (2018–2024) in Canada.

- Nearly 60,000 people experienced homelessness in 74 communities on a single night.
- Homelessness in unsheltered locations, including encampments, rose from 14% to 28%.
- Sheltered housing homelessness increased 77%, while transitional housing saw a 26% increase.

2024.01 Increase Supported Housing for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness with Mental Health and Mental Illness Issues

- **World Food Day** (Oct. 16).

Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future. It is calling for global collaboration in creating a peaceful, sustainable, prosperous, and food-secure future. By working together, across governments, organizations, sectors, and communities, to transform agrifood systems to ensure that everyone has access to a healthy diet, living in harmony with the planet.

- 2022.01 Enact Federal Legislation to Reduce Food Loss and Waste
- Position Paper: 2023 Water



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- **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (Oct. 17)**

Ending social and institutional maltreatment by ensuring respect and effective support for families. The aim is to put the furthest behind first and build institutions that help families stay together, thrive, and shape their own futures. Ending poverty is not only about income, but about dignity, justice, and belonging

- **World Food Day (Oct. 16)**

“Missionaries of Hope Among all Peoples” (cf. Bull Spes Non Confundit, 1).

To raise awareness about the missionary activity of the Church in 1,200 mission dioceses worldwide. It provides essential resources for communities that cannot sustain themselves with funding for church construction, pastoral care, education, and healthcare.



And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Matthew 25:40