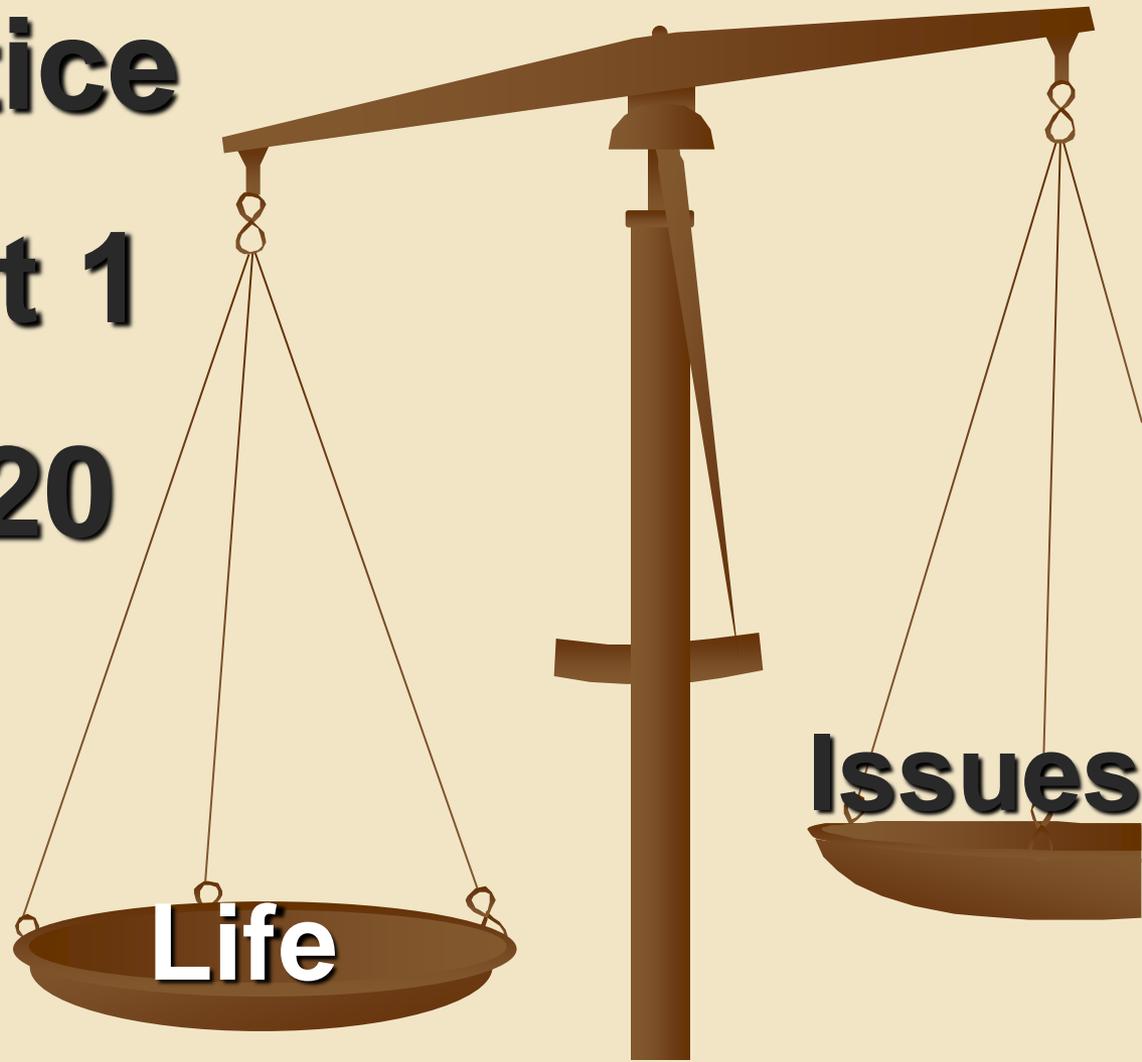
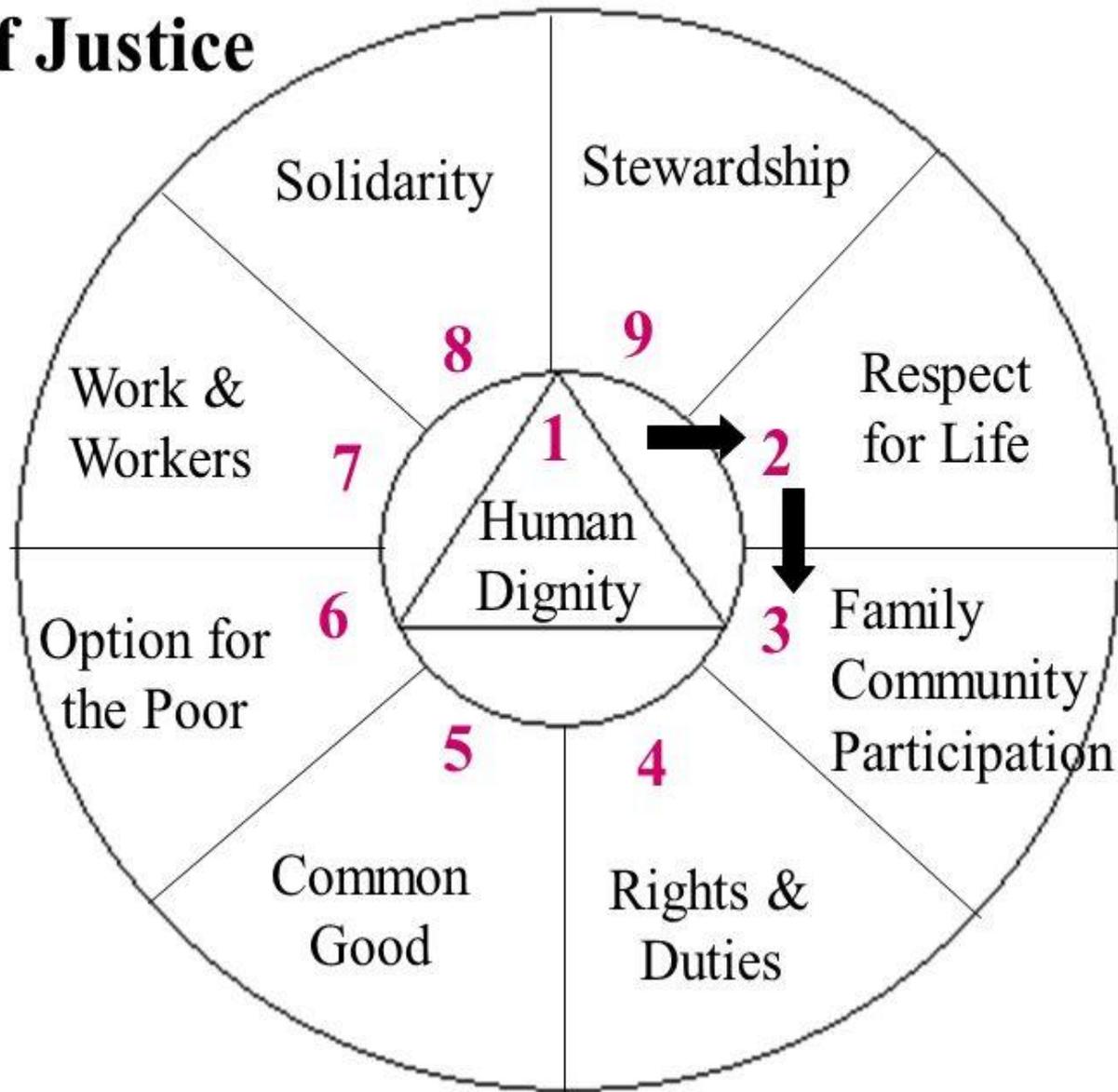


**Social Justice
Issues Part 1
Feb. 4, 2020**



Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

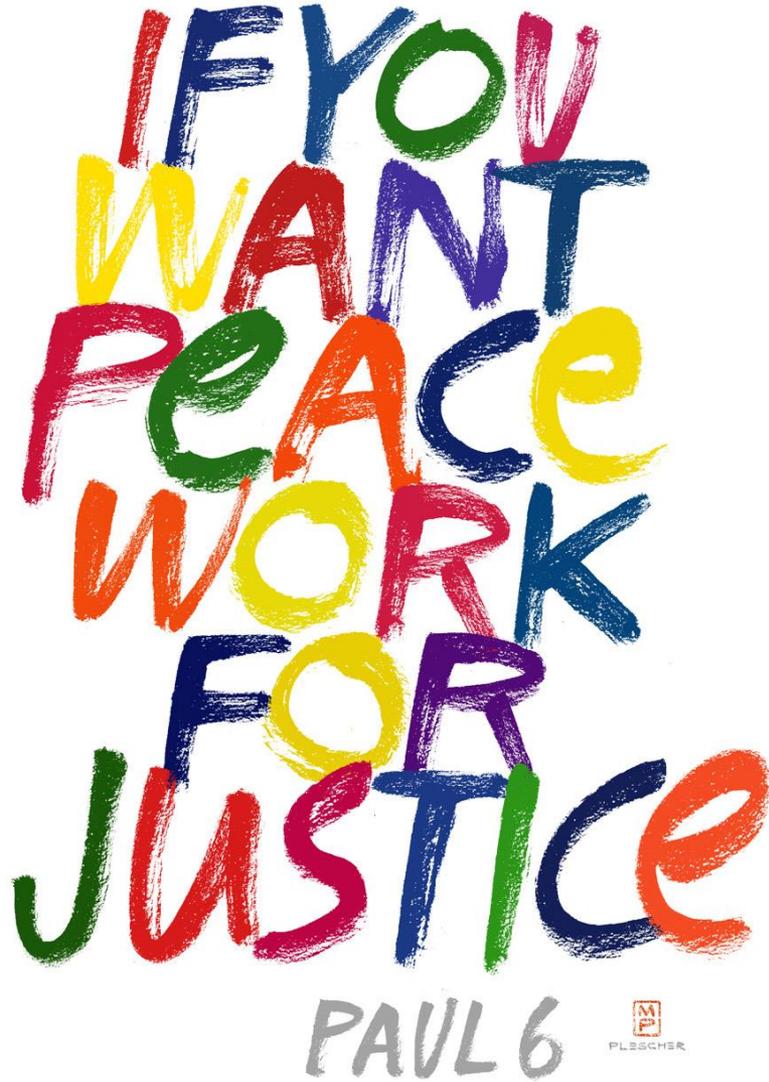
Wheel of Justice



Social Justice

- Applies the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to the structures, systems, and laws of society in order to guarantee the rights of individuals.
- Ensures that persons have a fair say in social, political, and economical institutions of society.
- The difference between charity and Justice???

charity = **social service** **justice** = **social change**



**What has been
the most
polarizing and
divisive issue
in U.S. politics
for the past
forty years?**

Issue #1: Abortion

Define

Share Thoughts

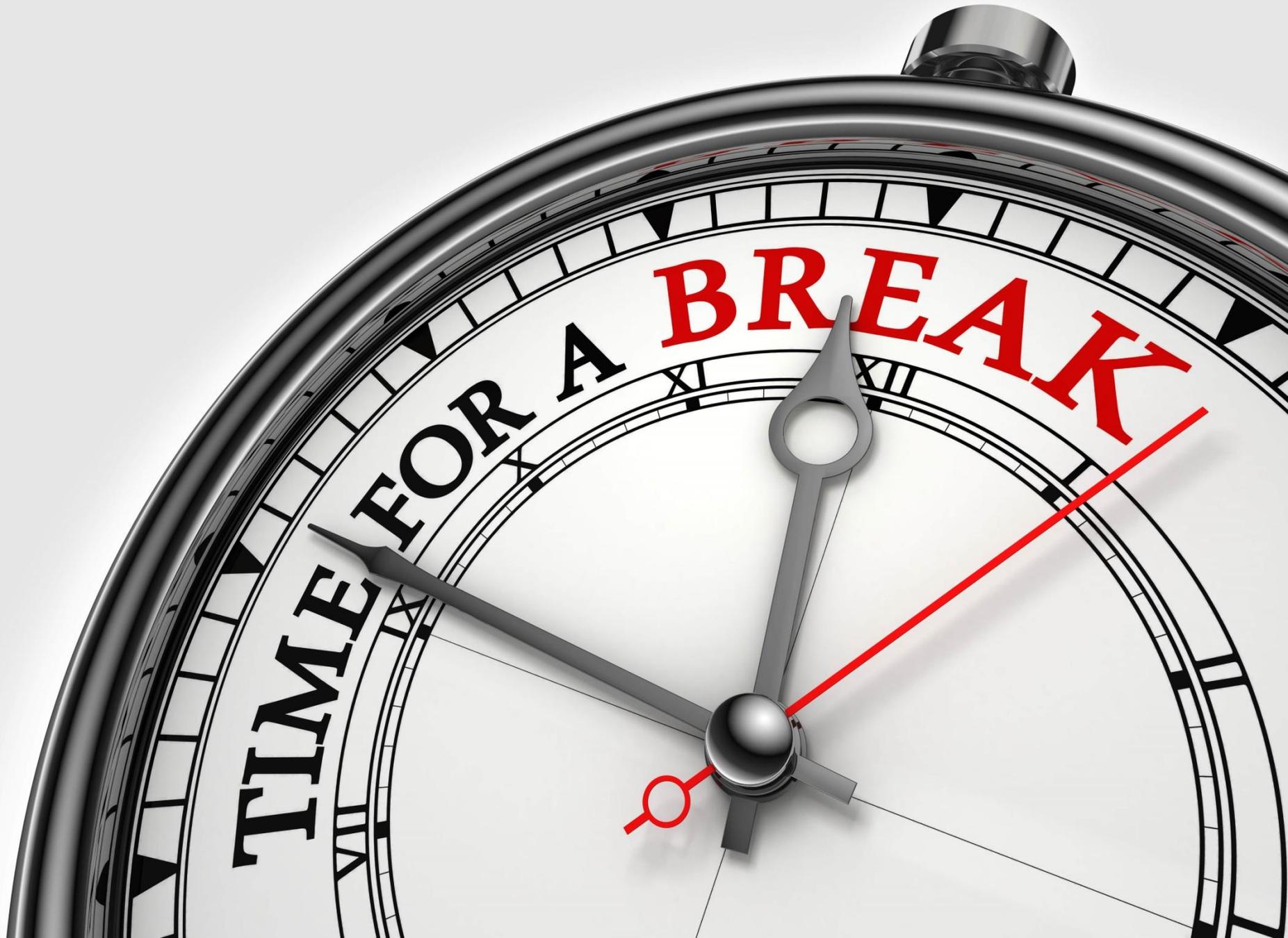
(small groups)

Discuss

(what we believe and why)

Conclusion

(moving towards peace AND justice)



TIME FOR A **BREAK**

Church Teaching on Abortion

The Church has condemned Abortion from the beginning:

“...you shall not murder a child by abortion nor kill that which is born...” ***Didache*** circa 96AD

“God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end”
[CCC 2258]

All people have equal dignity and an equal right to life -
this is the foundation of Christian justice

Human life begins at conception

Christian approach to someone who has an abortion:
non-judgmental, compassionate

In reality, few people question that life begins at conception – from the very start this new being is genetically human.

No doubt abortion involves issues of privacy and choice.

- ✓ The life of a fetus is equally valuable/important as the life of the mother
- ✓ We are no less human as a fetus than at any other stage of development.
- ✓ The value of human life does not depend circumstances surrounding it.

Abortion always violates the principle of human dignity

Questions for Table Sharing

What are the reasons given for why women choose to have an abortion?

Do any of these reasons seem to be an exception to the rule that abortion is wrong?

Abortion – A Few Facts

Percentage of women who gave one or more of the following reasons for having an abortion:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Having a baby would interfere with work, education or ability to care for dependents: | 74% |
| Cannot afford a child now: | 73% |
| Is having relationship problems or does not want to be a single mother: | 48% |
| Has completed childbearing: | 40% |
| Is not ready to have children: | 33% |
| Has experienced rape or incest: | 01% |

Updated Results (2012) The reasons most frequently cited were:

❖ Fewer than 1% said their parents' or partners' desire for them to have an abortion was the most important reason.

❖ Younger women often reported that they were unprepared for the transition to motherhood, while older women regularly cited their responsibility to dependents.

Conclusions / Question

- The decision to have an abortion is typically motivated by multiple, diverse and interrelated reasons.
- The themes of responsibility to others and resource limitations, such as financial constraints and lack of partner support, recurred throughout the study.

In addition to addressing the legal status of abortion, what else can we address that would reduce the number of abortions?

Conclusion

(moving towards peace AND justice)

***It's time to change the
abortion debate in America***

NCR Opinion / Politics

Jan. 9, 2020

by Patrick Carolan & Brian McLaren

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