

CES Sandhurst SOCIAL JUSTICE



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING PRINCIPLE #5 Preferential Option for the Poor



Sandhurst Alternative Schoolies

The obligation to evaluate social and economic activity from the viewpoint of the poor and the powerless arises from Jesus' radical command to love one's neighbor as one's self. A preferential option for the poor calls us to prioritize those who are in most need of our solidarity ie to put the needs of our poor and vulnerable first. We are called to see the world through the eyes of the poor and to work in solidarity to achieve justice. This obligation is deeply rooted in our Christian tradition.

The US Bishops said "The quality of the discussion about our economic future will affect the poor most of all, in this country and throughout the world. The life and dignity of millions of men, women and children hang in the balance. Decisions must be judged in light of what they do for the poor, what they do to the poor, and what they enable the poor to do for themselves.

(Economic Justice for All, 1986, #24)

WHO

are the poor in our midst? How can we preference them?

HOW

are the poor and marginalised affected by our decisions?