

Everyday Christians

"Catholicism does not call us to abandon the world, but to help shape it. This does not mean leaving worldly tasks and responsibilities, but transforming them. Catholics are everywhere in this society. We are corporate executives and migrant farm workers, senators and welfare recipients, university presidents and day care workers, tradesmen and farmers, office and factory workers, union leaders and small business owners. Our entire community of faith must help Catholics be instruments of God's grace and creative power in business and politics, factories and offices, in homes and schools and in all the events of daily life... The vocation to pursue justice is not simply an individual task--it is a call to work with others to humanize and shape the institutions that touch so many people... The church's social mission is advanced by teachers and scientists, by family farmers and bankers, by sales persons and entertainers. The Catholic social mission is also carried forward by believers who join unions, neighborhood organizations, business groups, civic associations [and the like]... This social mission of the church belongs to all of us. It is an essential part of what it is to be a believer."

(Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice by the U.S. Catholic bishops, U.S.C.C. Publishing [11/98], 3211 Fourth St. NE, Washington, DC 20017; \$1.50)