

The three ethical principles of the Catholic Church that relate to social action are 'Preferential protection for the poor and vulnerable', 'Universal destination of goods', and 'Participation'.

Preferential protection for the poor and vulnerable says, "our Catholic tradition instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first". Isaiah 1: 16-17 says, "Wash yourselves clean. Stop all this evil that I see you doing. Yes, stop doing evil and learn to do right. See that justice is done – help those who are oppressed, give orphans their rights and defend widows". We as Catholics are obligated to help the oppressed, and give orphans their rights and defend widows as we are told in Isaiah. We are also told, "Rich, developed nations have a responsibility towards poor and undeveloped countries" by Pope John Paul 11, 1988 (Sollicitudo Rei Socialis – On Social Concern).

Universal destination of goods explains that we have the right to participate in society; "everyone has the right not to be shut out of participating in those institutions necessary for human fulfilment such as work, education and political participation". We can connect this with scripture, Matthew 25: 31-46 "The final Judgement", from this we know that we have a duty to participate in society, seeking the wellbeing of everyone. We can link this principle of Catholic Social Teaching to 'the Common Good', which considers the traditions – economic, cultural and political, that allow people to reach their full potential and to realise their human dignity.

Finally, 'Universal destination of goods' this principle tells us "the earth and all it produces are intended for every person. Private ownership is acceptable, but there is a responsibility to ensure that all have enough to live in dignity". We can link this to the papal document made by the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World and second Vatican Council in 1965 as it says, "The worlds resources must be used for the benefit of all, not just a few".

We can also connect this principle to bible references such as Matthew 19: 20-21, which says, "I have obeyed all these commandments, the young man replied. What else do I need to do? Jesus said to him, If you want to be perfect, go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; then come and follow me." We as Catholics are instructed to share the earth's resources so that others may live in dignity and so they do not go without. We can connect this scripture to the principle of Preferential protection for the poor and vulnerable as well. With evidence from bible scriptures, we can say that these principles of Catholic Social Teachings tell us that we should obey the important teachings of the law such as justice, mercy and honesty and we must practice these without neglecting others.

In 2008, Angela Murray arranged to travel to the Solomon Islands to help the deaf community in the village of Aruligo in Guadalcanal. Poor health systems to treat specifically ear infections result in a high rate of deafness. Hearing aids are not available there so the opportunities for the deaf are limited. Angela learnt to sign in Pidgin (language common in the Solomon Islands) and was able to communicate with the Solomon Islands people. She was even able to assist in creating a sign book of language for them as well. Now being able to communicate with others there were more opportunities for the deaf communities in the Solomon Islands. Angela had shown the principle of participation when she felt obligated to help these people seeking the well-being of the deaf communities. Angela had also shown the principle of "Preferential protection for the poor and vulnerable' specifically targeting the deaf people in the Solomon Islands knowing that their

opportunities were limited. These people would have grown up poor and would not have been able to buy anything for themselves, including water and food.

Caritas Aotearoa would have also shown the principle 'Universal destination of Goods' by setting up projects and ways to get food and water like "project Auki" set up in the Solomon Islands. The purpose of this was to build wells and taps to get fresh water for the Solomon Islands people. Many nations demonstrate this principle by collecting donations for Caritas and these donations are sent to places who need them such as the Solomon Islands. They would also have donations from New Zealand, and as money for resources, food, water bottles, blankets, etc.

Helping the Solomon Islands the way in which they did demonstrated the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and shows they practice justice and mercy like Jesus told us. Helping the Solomon Islands by helping the deaf communicate, donating food, water, and obeying the laws of God, proves successful throughout our world especially in the Solomon Islands as they get better and stronger each day.