



## Week 2: Just Work

When we consider the spirituality of work, we need to consider the rights and dignity of all workers. In what ways can we support others in their work, so that everyone can have just working conditions?

In the Gospel parable this week, a landowner's servants and son are murdered by the tenants. This invites us to consider the treatment of workers everywhere. Jesus is present in workers, especially the "least of these." How do we work for God's kingdom and the good of all?

Not paying a just wage,  
not providing work,  
focusing exclusively on  
the balance books, on  
financial statements, only  
looking at making profit.

**That goes  
against God!**

Pope Francis



**Work is for  
people;  
not people  
for work.**

- Saint John Paul II

In *On Human Work*, Saint John Paul II defines the following worker rights: full employment, wages and benefits (enough to support a family), and unionization. He also emphasized rights and dignity of farm workers, disabled workers, and those who have to emigrate to work.

What rights do you believe everyone should have? The right to...

- ▶ work?
- ▶ dignity in work?
- ▶ a living wage? fair pay?
- ▶ to organize/strike?
- ▶ leisure time?
- ▶ sick pay?
- ▶ a safe work environment?

### Learn More on the Website

#### Short Videos

Learn the story of the labor struggle that Dr. Martin Luther King was involved in just prior to his assassination; a Labor Day prayer for workers.



#### Justice Issues

Learn more about worker justice issues, some of which you may be surprised any Americans have to still deal with. Find out what steps you can take to help.

Visit: <http://gospel.link/faithatwork2>

**Workers are called to pursue justice....** Owners, managers, and investors face important opportunities to seek justice and pursue peace. Ethical responsibility is not just avoiding evil, but doing right, especially for the weak and vulnerable. Decisions about the use of capital have moral implications: Are they creating and preserving quality jobs at living wages? Are they building up community through the goods and services they provide?

*Everyday Christianity:  
To Hunger and Thirst For Justice*  
U.S. Bishops