



1

**Development is the epitome of all social duties. Certainly, it is the proper function of authority to arbitrate, in the name of the common good, between various particular interests; but it should make accessible to each what is needed to lead a truly human life: food, clothing, health, work, education and culture, suitable information, the right to establish a family, and so on.**

**Catechism of the Catholic Church 1908**



2

**In his use of things man should regard the external goods he legitimately owns not merely as exclusive to himself but common to others also, in the sense that they can benefit others as well as himself.**

**Catechism of the Catholic Church 2404**



3

**The principle of solidarity, also articulated in terms of “friendship” or “social charity,” is a direct demand of human and Christian brotherhood**

**Catechism of the Catholic Church 1939**



4

**The principle of participation leads us to the conviction that the most appropriate and fundamental solutions to poverty will be those that enable people to take control of their own lives.**

**Economic Justice for All, US Catholic Bishops (1986), paragraph 188**



5

**Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?**

**James 2:15-16**



6

**John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”**

**Luke 3:11**

3

Part of SCIAF's role is to provide opportunity for "social charity," so that the Catholic community in Scotland can answer God's call on our lives to look after the poor and vulnerable. In solidarity with our sisters and brothers, we regularly come together as the Catholic Church in Scotland to pray, campaign and raise incredible amounts of money.

2

At SCIAF we put this value into practice remembering that the things we have are gifts to be used to benefit others as well as ourselves.

Ava (11) from Falkirk chose to accept donations for SCIAF's WEE BOX appeal from her friends at her birthday party instead of receiving presents for herself.  
Faith in action!

1

SCIAF is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland. SCIAF work to this Catechism as we fully believe in the development of people and in helping people with a hand up, not a hand out. Unfortunately, times do occur when people are in need of immediate help (suffering the effects of an international crisis) and SCIAF are well placed to provide the essentials to give 'what is needed to lead a truly human life'.

6

SCIAF encourage those that are in a position to share, to do so. People in Scotland, if able, have the opportunity to give what they can to help people who have little. SCIAF supporters raised over £350,000 in 2018 specifically just for emergency response.

5

As part of the Catholic Church in Scotland, we care about people's spiritual needs but we also follow Scripture's guidance to care about physical needs as well. We are able to act quickly to provide essential items in emergency situations and we provide longer term solutions to physical needs by helping people to help themselves.

4

After providing the essential items of clean water, food, shelter and medical care during an emergency, SCIAF then supports people to take control of their own lives, providing help for the longer term.

7

**As followers of Christ, we are challenged to make a fundamental 'option for the poor' – to speak for the voiceless, to defend the defenceless, to impact on the poor... As Christians, we are called to respond to the needs of all our brothers and sisters, but those with the greatest needs require the greatest response.**

**Economic Justice for All** paragraph 16

8

**"Today we cannot be satisfied simply with being aware of the problems faced by many of our brothers and sisters. It is not enough to offer broad reflections or engage in endless discussion, constantly repeating things everyone knows. We need to 'de-naturalize' extreme poverty, to stop seeing it as a statistic rather than a reality. Why? Because poverty has a face! It has the face of a child; it has the face of a family; it has the face of people, young and old".**

**Pope Francis Meeting of executive board of World Food Programme, June 13, 2016**

9

**None of us can think we are exempt from concerns for the poor and for social justice.**

**Pope Francis 2015**

10

**In your school you take part in various activities that habituate (make you used to something) you not to shut yourselves in on yourselves or in your small world, but to be open to others, especially to the poorest and neediest, to work to improve the world in which we live**

**Pope Francis – Meeting with students in Jesuit schools**

11

**Dignity is one principle of Catholic Social Teaching. We believe that every human person is made in the image and likeness of God meaning that God has given us all dignity.**

12

**"We received this world as an inheritance from past generations, but also as a loan from future generations, to whom we will have to return it!"**

**Pope Francis, meeting with political, business and community leaders, Quito, Ecuador, July 7, 2015**

9

SCIAF's role within the Church is to live out Pope Francis' message and to encourage the Catholic community to recognise and act upon our responsibility to promote social justice and to help the poor.

8

SCIAF are not "satisfied" by only being aware of the causes of poverty. People, young and old, are hurt by unfair rules, conflict, natural disasters and they are more than a statistic. We give practical help and make sure our sisters and brothers have their needs met both in emergencies and long-term development. But we want to do more and go further, by campaigning against injustice so that it doesn't happen again.

7

SCIAF speak up for people whose voices are often ignored. We do this by putting pressure on our government to change laws and policies that keep the poor in poverty.

We help the poorest and this requires a greater response.

12

SCIAF are aware of the way we are collectively mistreating creation and the impact this has on the most vulnerable. SCIAF are following Pope Francis' words by campaigning for a fairer world and by promoting lifestyle changes that can lower our carbon footprint. We put pressure on our government to act quickly for climate justice and we educate schools and parishes on climate justice.

11

SCIAF and our partners work hard to treat every person with dignity in whatever crisis they are experiencing. We are determined to not see them as just a number and to meet their needs in the most dignified way possible. This is why we work with local people affected to seek their needs and not presuming that we know best. We then help people to help themselves in the longer term as this empowers rather than takes away people' dignity.

10

In 2018 SCIAF visited 230 schools. Thousands of pupils took part in workshops, lessons and assemblies learning the importance of social justice and our responsibilities to others. Not only that, schools raised hundreds of thousands of pounds to help people living in poverty.