



In 1511, Fr. Antonio Montesinos, OP, preached against the oppression and enslavement of the native peoples of Hispaniola, modern day Dominican Republic and Haiti. “Tell me, by what right or by what interpretation of justice do you keep these Indians in such a cruel and horrible servitude? By what authority have you waged such detestable wars against people who were once living so quietly and peacefully in their own land?”

**A Legacy of Justice**

Dominicans have a long history of advancing the understanding of human rights and the economic, social, and political systems that influence and shape the lives of people.



In the early 13th century, the young theology student Dominic de Guzman sold his school books to help those who were starving and destitute during a time of famine. His subsequent impassioned preaching helped to form others in the Truth of the Gospel and led to the founding of the Dominican Order of Preachers.

16th century Dominican missionaries shared their experiences of accompanying native peoples with the Dominicans at the University at Salamanca, Spain. Those Dominicans then reflected, wrote, and called for justice for the native people oppressed by the system of colonialism.

Dominicans, 800 years later, continue that work, recommitted to the promotion and defense of human rights and protection and care of Creation.

**RESOURCES**

**International Dominican Commission for Justice & Peace**  
[www.op.org/apostolic-life/justice-and-peace/international-commission-for-justice-and-peace/](http://www.op.org/apostolic-life/justice-and-peace/international-commission-for-justice-and-peace/)

**Dominicans for Justice and Peace**  
[un.op.org/](http://un.op.org/)

**Justice for Immigrants**  
[jfi@usccb.org](mailto:jfi@usccb.org)

**Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops**  
[www.cccb.ca/justice-and-peace/](http://www.cccb.ca/justice-and-peace/)

**Catholic Climate Covenant**  
[catholicclimatecovenant.org/](http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/)

**Laudato Sí Action Platform**  
[www.laudatosiactionplatform.org](http://www.laudatosiactionplatform.org)

**Catholic Nonviolence Initiative**  
[paxchristi.net/cni-about-us/](http://paxchristi.net/cni-about-us/)

**Alliance to End Human Trafficking**  
[alliancetoendhumantrafficking.org/](http://alliancetoendhumantrafficking.org/)

**Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice**  
[networklobby.org/](http://networklobby.org/)



North American Dominican Promoters of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation  
[domlife.org/peace-justice](http://domlife.org/peace-justice)



# Gospel Call To Justice

*Presented by:*  
**North American Dominican Promoters of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation**

The ministry of the North American Dominican Promoters of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation is to encourage all members of the Dominican Family to embrace a deepening of the Dominican charism to search for and preach TRUTH as it impacts the lives of people and care for our common home, Earth. We are grounded in gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching that flows from the Gospel and our faith’s tradition.

We join with the International Dominican Commission on Peace and Justice whose mandate is to “support and encourage the Dominican Family in its efforts to preach more profoundly the Gospel of life, justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.”

These efforts are augmented by our Dominican presence at the United Nations in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, and Vienna.

*Preach the truth as if you had a million voices.*

~St. Catherine of Siena



OUR FOCUS

A passion for truth has been core to the Order of Preachers from its beginning. The recovery of a good understanding of what it means to seek truth, speak truth and live truth is the most pressing issue of justice and peace at this time. Truth is objective; there is reality and it is separate from us. Our naming reality differently doesn't make it different. Truth is bigger than each of us; what we perceive of reality is always less than reality itself. The human person is capable, by the light of reason, of penetrating beyond appearances to the deep-down truth of things...The common reference to truth, which is objective and universal, makes authentic dialogue possible between human persons. (The International Theological Commission). This respect for truth and ensuing dialogue allows us to work together and make wise decisions for the good of all.

We commit to the following interwoven priorities:

- Climate Crisis
- Peace and Security of All Life
- Migration and Immigration
- Human Trafficking
- Economic Justice

Racism impacts all of these issues and is deeply embedded in the policies, practices, and institutions that structure daily life. Our commitment to justice calls us to work to dismantle racism.

OUR PROCESS

Woven through the Dominican pillars of prayer, study, ministry, and community is the quest for TRUTH. In this quest, we:

Seek Truth

- Recognize that truth is objective and is an objective we value and strive for
- Commit to valuing truth and learning additional facts about issues of justice
- Listen to those who are oppressed, economically poor, and impacted by environmental degradation.
- Understand the interconnected realities that are the roots of injustice and conflict

Speak Truth

- Commit to honesty, that whatever we say is grounded in reality
- Address injustice in a spirit of respect, compassion, and solidarity

Be Truthful

- Witness to integrity and truthfulness in our dealings with others
- Look for common ground and focus energy there
- Work with others to challenge and change systems that perpetuate harm

Climate Crisis

Vulnerable species and those living in poverty bear the heaviest burden of climate crisis. Pope Leo recognizes climate crisis as a moral issue which threatens all of creation. He states, "In a world where the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters are the first to suffer the devastating effects of climate change, deforestation, and pollution, care of creation becomes an expression of our faith and humanity." Public policy to mitigate this threat must encompass the common good and respect the dignity of all life.

"We are at a crucial turning point. A crucial fork in the road, where we can take the right path." *Veerabhadran Ramanathan (Pontifical Academy of Sciences)*

Peace and Security for All Life

In the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Leo reminds us that we are "Seeds of Peace and Hope." Responding to this call, we affirm the dignity of all life and embrace the tenets of nonviolence as essential to peace and security. The book of Genesis emphasizes the fact that we all are made in the image and likeness of God. This requires us to actively promote the life and dignity of all God's creatures, especially those who are living in poverty and are most vulnerable.

"By working with love and perseverance, we can

sow many seeds of justice and thus contribute to the growth of peace and the renewal of hope. It may well take years for this plant to bear its first fruits, years that, for their part, involve an entire ecosystem made up of continuity, fidelity, cooperation and love, especially if that love mirrors the Lord's own self-sacrificing Love." *Pope Leo XIV, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2025.*

Migration and Immigration

According to the UN Refugee Agency, by the end of 2024 **123.2 million people** had been forced to flee their homes globally due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order. Since Pope Leo XIII (1891), the Church worldwide has defended the right of peoples to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families.

"In a world darkened by war and injustice, even when all seems lost, migrants and refugees stand as messengers of hope. Their courage and tenacity bear heroic testimony to a faith that sees beyond what our eyes can see and gives them the strength to defy death on the various contemporary migration routes." *Leo XIV World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2025*

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the exploitation of people through force, fraud, or coercion. Despite increased awareness of human trafficking, it remains a worldwide crisis. Outlawed in every nation, it is one of the fastest-growing criminal industries. According to the United Nations' International Labor Organization, an estimated 27.5 million people world-wide are victims of human trafficking, subjected to both labor and sex trafficking.

"It is a call to take action, to mobilize all our resources in combatting trafficking and restoring full dignity to those who have been its victims...If we close our eyes and ears, if we do nothing, we will be guilty of complicity." *Pope Francis, Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking 2024*

Economic Justice

God's desire is for everyone to live the fullness of life. Economic justice provides opportunities for persons to enjoy dignified, productive, and creative lives. Issues of economic injustice encompass income and wealth inequality, lack of a living wage, housing discrimination

and homelessness, food insecurity, discrimination in employment, and disparities in healthcare and education. Since 2020, the world's five richest people have more than doubled their fortunes from \$405 billion to \$869 billion while nearly five billion people have been made poorer. (Oxfam International Annual Report 2024). We are called to promote an economy that has solidarity as a core value and that is a driving force for the development of all life on the planet.

"A just and sustainable society and world are not an optional ideal, but a moral and practical necessity. Without justice, a sustainable economy will be beyond reach. Without an ecologically responsible world economy, justice will be unachievable." *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Renewing the Earth (1991)*

WHAT ADVOCACY OR ACTION COULD I BE INVOLVED IN TO ADDRESS ONE OR MORE OF THESE ISSUES?