



PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE
Preferential Option for the Poor
(Week 7 of an 8-Week Series)

We continue our series on building solidarity with the poor as we publish excerpts from Jack Jezreel's 1997 article, "Why the Preferential Option for the Poor is Not Optional:"

STEP 6: Give money.

Remember to give a good bit of your money away. The early Christian definition of so-called disposable income is that it is the rightful possession of the poor. Like all things, the key is just to get started. Decide that you are going to give away 5 percent of your income, or 1 percent, or .001 percent. Then do it, and periodically and prayerfully consider if this is still suitable or needs to be adjusted.

Let me suggest that you earmark some money for local causes, some for international causes, and some for person-to-person support. Some may question this last suggestion, but I think it's important to know people well enough to trust them with regular assistance and well enough for them to trust you. In the words of Saint Vincent de Paul, "The poor will forgive your gifts of food only by feeling your love."

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