



**PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
*Who is Rich & Who is Poor*

We continue our series: "**Who is Rich & Who is Poor**" in an attempt to prepare the parish for the Church's Lenten mission on extreme poverty.

During reflection, it is important to consider that the Church's view is not the view of a specific country or culture. Instead, the Church's view stands independently, guided by the Spirit rather than popular majority.

Below, we discuss the Catholic view on poverty. At times, this view can be difficult to hear because it does not always fit culturally. Yet, as Catholics, we hold it as truth.

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*"It is well known how strong were the words used by the Fathers of the Church to describe the proper attitude of persons who possess anything towards persons in need. To quote Saint Ambrose: 'You are not making a gift of your possessions to the poor persons. You are handing over to them what is theirs. For what has been given in common for the use of all, you have arrogated to yourself. The world is given to all, and not only to the rich.' That is, private property does not constitute for anyone an absolute and unconditioned right. No one is justified in keeping for exclusive use what is not needed, when others lack necessities."*

**Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio* (23), Encyclical Letter on the Development of Peoples, 1967.**

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Next Social Justice Mtg.: Thurs.2/22/07; 7:30-9:30, Rm. 227