

# Fair Trade Notes

Where Catholic meets Coffee and Chocolate

## Two Basic Principles: Faith and Conscience Formation and Transformation

- 1 – The Work of the Church happens outside the Church (“Go in Peace to Love and Serve...”)
- 2 – Our purchasing choices have moral consequences. “It is good for people to realize that purchasing is always a moral—and not simply—economic act. Hence *the consumer has a specific social responsibility...* (Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, no. 66)

## Fair Trade Purchases reflect our Catholic Charism

- 1 – Dignity of all people, Preferential option for the poor, Rights of workers to receive a just wage, Solidarity, Common Good, Call to Family, Community, and Participation (person is not only sacred, but social), Environmental Stewardship
- 2 – Catholic Catechism - “*The Eucharist commits us to the poor.* To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren” (no. 1397, original emphasis).

## Resources

Solidarity in a Cup – DVD, and CRS Fair Trade Handbook, Today’s Handouts in my office

<http://www.crsfairtrade.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Fair%20Trade%20and%20Catholic%20social%20teaching%20June%202010.pdf>

<http://www.crsfairtrade.org>; [www.equalexchange.coop](http://www.equalexchange.coop)

Stores: [Deans Beans](#); [Trader Joes](#); [Grounds for Change](#); [Whole Foods](#); [Ten Thousand Villages](#)

## Goals through Collaboration and Catechesis

- 1 – Introduce Fair Trade Practices and Opportunities in Diocesan Parishes and Schools
- 2 – Recommend that our Diocesan Buildings purchase Fair Trade Coffee
- 3 – Pray and Think about our personal purchasing choices

“The remuneration of work is not something that can be left to the laws of the marketplace; nor should it be a decision left to the will of the more powerful. It must be determined in accordance with justice and equity; which means that workers must be paid a wage which allows them to live a truly human life and to fulfill their family obligations in a worthy manner.” —Mater et Magistra, Pope John XXIII, 1961

“[Solidarity] is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good.”—Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, Pope John Paul II, 1987

“The development of peoples depends, above all, on a recognition that the human race is a single family working together in true communion, not simply a group of subjects who happen to live side by side.” —Pope Benedict XVI (*Caritas in Veritate*, no. 53, 2009).

“We as women see the added value of producing organically because it protects the environment, and as we look at global warming we are providing our own contribution to the health of our planet.” Rosa Jimenez