The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society is proper to the lay faithful. Their mission is to configure social life correctly, respecting its legitimate autonomy and cooperating with other citizens according to their own respective competences, fulfilling their own responsibility.

cfr. Deus Caritas Est, n. 29

Information and the awareness of the reality of the different Countries of the world is essential if we want to promote justice and peace. We are called to draw attention in a special way to those who are voiceless. In order to prevent conflicts and to fight every form of slavery, it is important that we be involved with groups who are committed to peace.

"By the lighting a candle", we remember of the struggles and sufferings of our brothers and sisters.

It is our duty to collaborate, even through networking, in order to uphold and safeguard the rights of the poor, ensuring that their rights are respected. It is essential that in our society we are in the front line **to defend life** from its conception to natural death. We must not evade the responsibility to work actively in institutions such as politics, schools, etc....

FLC International Congress, 2006: Resolutions n 7

## A "FORMATION COURSE" ON THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

## Presentation

The publication of the "Compendium" of the social doctrine of the Church has re-proposed the formative vocation of the Christian community. It is from this particular interest that the initiative arose to establish a "school of formation" as an opportunity for all, individuals and groups, to deepen the social teachings of the Church.

The year 2015, the dateline marked by all the governments committed to diminishing by half the poverty in the world, is getting ever closer and our commitment is becoming ever more urgent in order that the gap between North and South may not become normality, rather, there may be an increased awareness towards the call to a greater social justice.

The recent International Congress of the Lay Canossian Family, held in Verona, has demanded a particular commitment for a concrete journey towards Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

It is with this intention that the Lay Canossian International Team promotes this course of formation, for all the Lay Canossians and the Animators, entitled: "The Lay Canossians: Witnesses of Justice and Peace.

Such course of formation aims to make known the most important principles of the Social Doctrine of the Church and to concretize its contents while approaching the topics related to our life as Lay Canossians called to announce and to witness the Gospel in the areas of family, work, culture, politics and economy, participating actively in the life of the Local Church and collaborating in the ministries of the two Religious Canossian Institutes.

Through an interactive **methodology** and through modules sent to everyone, the course will make the topics which concern us more familiar and updated, by raising questions and encouraging discussion among the participants, it will offer useful methodologies on how to conduct similar encounters in the respective territories. It will make use, in particular, of the formative modules proposed in the JPIC Canossian Guidelines of 2004.

The School of Formation on the Social Doctrine of the Church will start in the year 2008, with a short summary of the Social Teachings of the Church.