

Equality and Equity

We operate under two very different economic systems. On one hand, in society the measure to which we claim a right is determined by the character and extent of our earning power. On the other hand, what is described in St. Paul's admonition to the Corinthians is more like the way economics operates in a family. There, need rather than earning power determines the measure of what we might claim as our right.

Both systems are built on important, though sometimes different, values. The prominent economic system in today's world advocates equality as the value upon which it is built. This includes equal pay for equal work, but also equality of opportunity. The system Paul advocates is built on issues of equity, which recognizes that all things are not equal. It insists that those who need more should get more. Both systems also face pitfalls. This could occur when a system

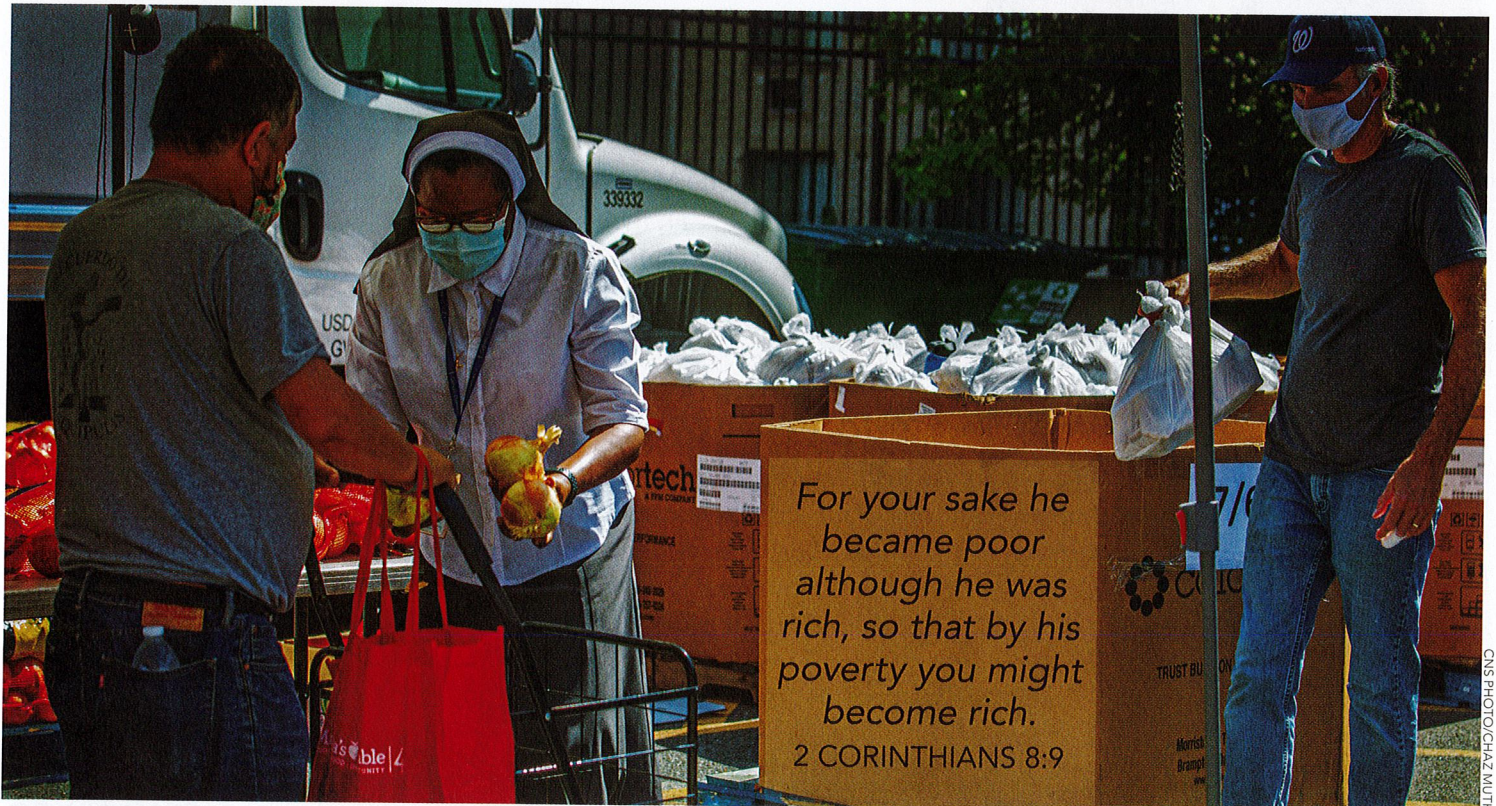
based on equality does not operate on an "equal playing field." In such a situation, equality can lack justice. Then again, a system in which need or equity plays an important role must always be on the alert for idleness. Experience has shown that people have a tendency to take advantage of either system.

In an ideal system, both values operate. This is what Paul is actually advocating. He does not expect the rich to become poor. However, he does insist that as a matter of justice, and not charity, legitimate needs should be met. After all, we all are called to join the household of God.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ *In which of your parish or diocesan justice programs might you be able to participate?*
- ★ *How might genuine family values improve the ministry of your parish?*



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Dear Padre,

This week is the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul. Why doesn't each have his own feast day?

They do. Saints Peter and Paul are united in a solemnity on June 29 to honor their martyrdom, but each has his own feast: the Chair of St. Peter (February 22) and the Conversion of St. Paul (January 25).

Peter's primacy is evident in the prominence given to him by the Gospel writers and in the position of authority entrusted to him in the infant Church. Jesus promised Peter that he alone would be the foundation stone, keeper of the keys, and head shepherd (see Matthew 16:18–19 and John 21:15–17). Peter also oversaw Judas Iscariot's replacement (see Acts of the Apostles 1:15–26).

Paul holds a position of honor for his transformation from Church persecutor to “a slave of Christ Jesus” (Romans 1:1).



Saint Augustine wrote that they share a solemnity because, even though they didn't suffer on the same day, they suffered as one. On different days of presumably the same year, 67, Peter was crucified and Paul beheaded.

Their esteem coupled them in the early Church's devotion. Hence, the solemnity Mass preface states that “each in a different way gathered together the one family of Christ; and revered together throughout the world, they share one Martyr's crown.”

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A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*



They were two very different people....Yet the closeness that joined Peter and Paul did not come from natural inclinations, but from the Lord. He did not command us to like one another, but to love one another. He is the one who unites us, without making us all alike. He unites us in our differences.

SOLEMNITY OF STS. PETER AND PAUL, JUNE 29, 2020

Calendar

Monday

JUNE 28

St. Irenaeus,
Bishop and Martyr
Gn 18:16–33
Mt 8:18–22

Tuesday

JUNE 29

Sts. Peter and Paul,
Apostles
Acts 12:1–11
2 Tm 4:6–8, 17–18
Mt 16:13–19

Wednesday

JUNE 30

Weekday
Gn 21:5, 8–20a
Mt 8:28–34

Thursday

JULY 1

Weekday
Gn 22:1b–19
Mt 9:1–8

Friday

JULY 2

Weekday
Gn 23:1–4, 19;
24:1–8, 62–67
Mt 9:9–13

Saturday

JULY 3

St. Thomas, Apostle
Eph 2:19–22
Jn 20:24–29

Sunday

JULY 4

Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Ez 2:2–5
2 Cor 12:7–10
Mk 6:1–6a

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