



CENTER FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES

TO: WBC AND MICAH PARTICIPANTS

SUBJECT: LIVING WAGE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Opening Prayer
- WBC Mission Statement
- **Scripture:** 2 Kings 4:1-7
- Silent Meditation
- Sharing Insights on Scripture
- **Reading:** Rodriguez, Rita. "Reflections on Paying a Living Wage in a Global Economy in Turmoil." Woodstock Report, October 2010, no. 98: pp. 6-7.
- Discussion and Reflection
- Closing Prayer

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Woodstock Business Conference is to establish and lead a network of business leaders to explore their respective religious traditions in order to ask the individual executives:

- To integrate faith, family, and professional life,
- To develop a corporate culture that is reflective of their religious faith and values,
- To exercise a beneficial influence upon society at large.

The Conference, grounded in Roman Catholic tradition, welcomes believers who are open to and respectful of one another's religious traditions. It is committed to the conviction that ethics and values grow out of one's religious heritage.

SCRIPTURE: *2 Kings 4:1-7*

A certain woman, the widow of one of the guild prophets, complained to Elisha: “My husband, your servant is dead. You know that he was a God-fearing man, yet now his creditor has come to take my two children as his slaves.” “How can I help you?” Elisha answered her. “Tell me what you have in the house.” “This servant of yours has nothing in the house but a jug of oil,” she replied. “Go out,” he said, “borrow vessels from all your neighbors—as many empty vessels as you can. Then come back and close the door on yourself and your children; pour the oil into all the vessels, and as each is filled, set it aside.” She went and did so, closing the door on herself and her children. As they handed her the vessels, she would pour the oil. When all the vessels were filled, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” “There is none left”, he answered her. And then the oil stopped. She went and told the man of God, who said, “Go and sell the oil to pay off your creditor; with what remains, you and your children can live.”

Questions:

1. How do I see the issue of living wages? Why do I think Mr. Bozich, the CEO in the story in the Rodriguez article, is doing what he is doing?
2. What have I done/can I do as an individual in the following areas:
 - a. What can I do as an individual in private life to support and promote the living wage?
 - b. What policies can I support in my firm? What options can I explore? For example, increased productivity, reorganization of work roles, outsourcing.
 - c. What can I do to get society (government, business, churches, schools, etc.) to encourage efforts to provide a living wage?
3. What values motivate my answers above?
4. Does my faith inform my responses to the questions above? If so, how?

READING:

- Rodriguez, Rita. “Reflections on Paying a Living Wage in a Global Economy in Turmoil.” Woodstock Report, October 2010, no. 98: pp. 6-7.