

**NAME:**

# Common Good

## ACTIVITY 1 – WHAT IS THE COMMON GOOD?

Go to [http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc\\_css/archive/catechism/p3s1c2a2.htm](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p3s1c2a2.htm) and read Catechisms 1905 to 1912.

In your own words, what are the three elements of the common good?

Describe a situation when you did something that was for the good of others and not just yourself. What impact did this have on the group? What did you learn from this?

How does the St Vincent de Paul Society contribute to the common good?  
The fact books may help you answer.

How can modern technology be used to promote the common good? Are there any situations where technology could threaten the common good? Explain.

Research a public figure (past or present) who contributes to or promotes the common good of society. Explain what they do to contribute to or promote the common good.

Research a public figure (past or present) who threatens or harms the common good of society. Explain what they do to threaten or harm the common good.



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Use the concept spiral below to explore the concept of the common good.

Instructions:

1. In the grey shaded sections, write the three elements of the common good.
2. In the outer sections, explain why this element is crucial for the common good.

Some questions to consider:

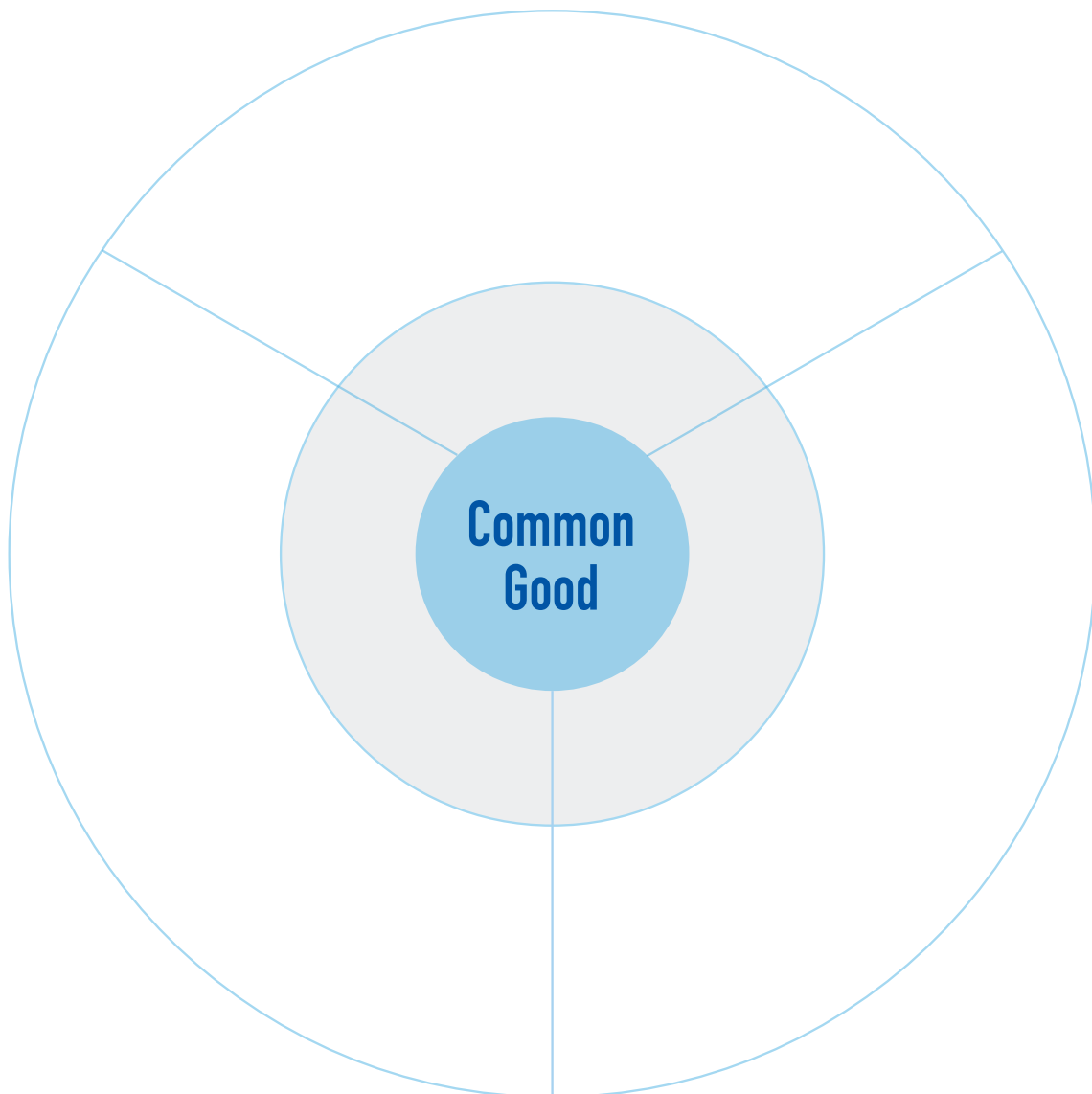
How does respect for others promote peaceful relationships?

In what ways are individuals in the community treated with equal dignity?

How can people show practical love for the wellbeing of the poor and marginalised in our community?

How can people act as responsible stewards of creation?

Think about some of the threats and challenges in the world that may threaten each element of the common good.



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## ACTIVITY 3 – SLOGAN

Create a simple, catchy slogan to promote the common good. Using design software, or hand-drawing, make this slogan into a bumper sticker to go on cars. Write your slogan below.

## ACTIVITY 4 – CLASS RULES

Develop a set of classroom rules which take into account the common good of the entire class.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Justify why these rules are beneficial to the common good of the class.

# Teacher Guide – Common Good

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**In your own words, what are the three elements of the common good?**

The common good refers to the social conditions which allow ALL people to reach their fulfilment more fully and easily. The three elements of the common good are:

- Respect for the person – public authorities must respect fundamental human rights and people must respect each other.
- Social well-being and development of the group – everyone must have access to what is needed to lead a human life (food, clothing, health etc.)
- Peace and stability

**Describe a situation when you did something that was for the good of others and not just yourself. What impact did this have on the group? What did you learn from this?**

Student responses will vary.

**How does the St Vincent de Paul Society contribute to the common good?**

**The fact books may help you answer.**

As stated in the fact book, the St Vincent de Paul Society is working towards a more just society in which the rights, responsibilities and development of all people are promoted. The St Vincent de Paul Society offers a wide range of services which are aimed at building equality and justice into society. In particular, the Society helps those experiencing homelessness and poverty by providing them with a hand up so they are able to participate in civic life.

**How can modern technology be used to promote the common good? Are there any situations where technology could threaten the common good? Explain.**

Technology such as the internet and social media can promote the common good by allowing people all over the world to connect with each other in various ways. Technology also fosters international collaboration on important issues such as foreign aid, disaster relief, counter-terrorism and much more. Being able to combat these issues more effectively is clearly beneficial for the common good. On the other hand, technology may threaten the common good. Advances in technology mean the development of higher powered weapons, surveillance devices which may threaten privacy and more. (These are just a few examples students may come up with).

**Research a public figure (past or present) who contributes to or promotes the common good of society. Explain what they do to contribute to or promote the common good.**

Student answers will vary depending on who they choose to research. Some examples may include Nelson Mandela, Gandhi etc.

**Research a public figure (past or present) who threatens or harms the common good of society. Explain what they do to threaten or harm the common good.**

Student answers will vary depending on who they choose to research. Some examples may include corrupt political leaders, leaders of terrorist organisations etc.

# Teacher Guide – Common Good

Students should write the three elements of the common good in the grey sections as shown below. What they write in the large white sections will vary depending on their responses to the questions.

