

(9) The land's workers should be able to become the land's owners

71. People working in a variety of occupations often look toward the day when they might achieve a certain amount of independence and security by becoming owners of the enterprise in which they work. Thus, tenant farmers hope to have their own farm someday; company employees hope to become independent entrepreneurs, or owners of the company in which they work.

72. In his encyclical *Mater et Magistra* Pope John XXIII wrote that "it is very desirable that workers gradually acquire some share in the enterprise by such methods as seem more appropriate."³⁶ His thought closely paralleled that of Pope Pius XII who declared that the social order should make possible "a secure, although modest, property to all classes of the people."³⁷

73. People who work on land that is owned by others should have some means of gradual entry into ownership of the land or corporation, either as individual owners or as shareholders. Farm renters and farmworkers should have the opportunity to become owner-operators of modest-sized family farms; and mine, timber and factory workers should be able to share directly in the management and profits of the corporations for which they work.

(10) The land's mineral wealth should be shared

74. The mineral resources of our region are limited. They benefit the companies that extract them through the profits they provide, and they benefit people in general through their utility as fuel or as manufactured products. Their benefit to the people in the area in which they are mined, however, is short-lived: for the time in which they are available they provide jobs and short term economic prosperity.

75. The benefit which the people in the region derive from their natural resources should outlive the availability of those resources. Mining companies should not reap high profits over the short term to the disadvantage of the area's inhabitants over the long term. The profits resulting from mineral resources extracted from the land should be shared in part by the people of the State in which mining occurs.

Strangers and Guests

76. The idea that the land was entrusted to us by God as our common inheritance, for which we must be stewards, is perhaps most clearly outlined in the twenty-fifth chapter of the Book of Leviticus. When the Jewish people finally arrived at their new homeland, and apportioned the land among themselves, God described for them what their attitude should be toward the land as property: