



# Catholic Social Teaching

## Lucky and Fortunate

The new boy sat alone and watched the others kick the ball around at lunchtime. Today was his first day at the new school. Everything about the day so far had been strange and different.

Musad was a Muslim and this was his first day attending a new school, a Catholic school. His parents had transferred him there after he had received repeated threats at the public school across town.

His mother had told him, "Musad, your name means 'Lucky, Fortunate.' There was room at this school and the people in charge were very nice. I think you are lucky and fortunate, Musad!"

Everything had changed for Musad's family since 9/11. His father's store had been ransacked three times, and protesters picketed and called out ugly slurs when Musad and his family went to the mosque to worship. Musad's mother was sure this school would be different for Musad and his sisters.

So far, it was different. In some ways. At least no one had called him any names, yet. Everyone had pretty much left him alone. He thought. "I'm Muslim. I'm not like them. I wonder if they know I'd like to be their friend?"

Musad's mind wandered. He thought about his friends, or his used-to-be friends. "The world's a messed-up place right now," he thought as he finished his lunch.

Musad got up to throw his lunch bag in the trash can. He saw the three boys who were kicking the ball walking in his direction. He met the boys' eyes. He took a deep breath. "Am I lucky and fortunate?" he thought to himself. "At least now I'll find out if this place really is any different."

### Participating in Community Life

All people are created in the image of God. We have the responsibility to work with all people for the common good of all people. We are called to be a community that reaches out to all and includes all people in the life and work of the community.

