



# ***Sustaining Life on the Land***

## ***Reflections on Rural Life***

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### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION REGARDING LIFE ON THE LAND**

*In the 1998 statement by the Catholic Bishops of Ohio entitled **Life on the Land: A Call to Reflection and Action on Agriculture in Ohio**, the Bishops encouraged individuals, families, educators, religious leaders and community leaders to dialogue and prayerfully reflect upon the difficult issues impacting our food production systems. The following are nine reflection questions offered from this statement.*

1. **How does our current agricultural system affect the most vulnerable persons among us: children, the hungry, the undocumented, migrant workers, farm families and others who labor in industrialized farms and processing plants?**
2. **How does society best maintain, nurture and protect the diversity of peoples, cultures, natural resources and agricultural practices within a given community?**
3. **How does our society best reflect the principle that private land ownership carries a social responsibility?**
4. **How is the community at the most local level involved in land use decisions that affect their lives and livelihood?**
5. **What measures of social and economic accountability should owners of industrial scale agricultural facilities be required to offer to local communities? How should this accountability be enforced?**
6. **How can state and local policies better support widespread ownership and local control of farmland and productive resources, including support for first time farmers and those using alternative food production methods?**
7. **What are appropriate practices and policies which will ensure safe working conditions and just treatment of all agricultural laborers, especially migrant and undocumented workers?**
8. **How do my life-style choices regarding consumption reflect gospel values?**
9. **What information will assist me in making purchasing choices that reflect a commitment to a just food system?**

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The sources for "A Framework for Economic Life" include the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, recent papal encyclicals, the pastoral letter *Economic Justice for All*, and other statements of the U.S. Catholic Bishops. They reflect the Church's teaching on the dignity, rights, and duties of the human person; the option for the poor the common good; subsidiarity and solidarity.