

## *Social Service vs. Social Action*

Social service cures the symptoms;  
social action eliminates the disease.

Social service deals with effects;  
social action concentrates on causes.

Social service helps individuals;  
social action realigns institutions.

Social service meets needs;  
social action changes policies.

Social service shelters, cures, and feeds;  
social action organizes and reforms.

Social service brings  
immediate satisfaction;  
the gratification from social action  
takes much longer.

Social service without action  
can perpetuate the problem;  
social action without service  
runs the risk of remoteness.

The social servant works  
from the power of love;  
the social activist operates  
out of love and empowerment.

The social servant can rely on  
instinct and feeling;  
the social activist requires  
knowledge and skill.

The social servant may be a loner;  
the social activist has no effect  
without community.

The Gospel calls us to social service:  
we have responded splendidly;  
the Gospel also calls us to social action:  
why do so many hesitate?

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