



Socially Conscious Gift Guide

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.” — Mother Teresa

This holiday season put your Catholic faith into action by purchasing gifts with a purpose. You can give a unique, handmade gift that supports families and strengthens communities worldwide. Supporting fair trade organizations ensures that artisans and farmers living in poverty are treated with respect and dignity and are paid fairly for their work.



Fair Trade Organizations

SERRV, founded in 1949, empowers marginalized artisans and farmers to earn a fair living from their work, breaking the cycle of poverty and building stronger communities worldwide. **Order online at Serrv.org.**

The Marketplace

The Marketplace is a nonprofit Christian fair trade store that partners with ministries and artisans around the world. Each product represents a life-changing journey from hopelessness to empowerment. **Order online at Themarketplacenc.com.**

Heifer International is a non-profit charity seeking to end world hunger and poverty by embracing the philosophy of “teach a man to fish.” It provides livestock, trees, training and other resource to help struggling families build sustainable futures. **Visit Heifer.org.**

KIVA is an international micro financing non-profit with a mission to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive. Kiva utilizes crowdfunding loans to unlock capital so as to improve the quality and cost of financial services, and address the underlying barriers to financial access around the world.

Visit Kiva.org.

Project Have Hope is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower women in the Acholi Quarter of Uganda by providing education to both the women and their children and assisting the women to establish business opportunities to promote economic stability and sustainability. **Visit Projecthavehope.org.**

Eco-friendly Gifts: As you shop year-round, avoid single-use items, avoid plastic, shop local, buy package-free and choose organically-made, ethically-sourced products and goods. For deliveries, make sure the shipping material is recyclable and eco-friendly.

How Do You Shop Fair Trade?

From The Catholic News Herald

Items certified as “fair trade” guarantee fair prices but also abide by ethical principles. Child and slave labor are not used. Workplaces are safe, and workers have the right to unionize and have a say in their working conditions. Prices cover the cost of production but are also sufficient to enable social improvement, promote business development, and protect the local environment. Fair trade certification also promotes long-term business relationships between buyers and sellers, crop financing, and greater transparency throughout the supply chain.

To become certified as fair trade, producers and farmers must follow standards set by Fairtrade Labeling Organizations International. This non-profit located in Bonn, Germany, handles inspecting and certifying producer organizations in more than 50 countries. The fair trade certification system covers thousands of products and commodities, and the fair trade certification mark can now be found on about 30,000 different items.

You will know a product is fair trade by the label. Fair trade labeling in the U.S. is usually described as “Fair Trade,” “Fair Trade Certified” or “FTC.” There are five widely recognized labels: Fair Trade International, Fair Trade U.S.A., Fair for Life, the World Fair Trade Organization and the Fair Trade Federation.

Gifts Made by Survivors: Provide hope and income to victims of violence and human trafficking. Many rescued victims must find work and build skills to survive and avoid falling back into the hands of abuse and forced labor. They do this through the creation and sale of handcrafted goods. **Fashion and Compassion** trains and employs survivors to design and create beautiful jewelry and clothes. Visit fashionandcompassion.com.