

***Critical Thinking – Social Analysis  
Ministry Questions / Statements.***

**Who is voiceless?**

**Who's needs are ignored?**

**Who makes decisions?**

**At what level are decisions made?**

**Who is unseen?**

**Who is 'out of sight' and 'out of mind'?**

**Who has the power?**

**Who influences the media?**

**Is there a gap between the truth and what the media portrays? Why?**

**Where is the individual in all of this?**

**Whose voice counts?**

**Who is impacted directly by this decision?**

**Who pays? Who really pays?**

**We all pay the cost but no-one sends the invoice!**

**Who sets the agenda?**

**Who wins? Who loses?**

**If it does not work – why do we do it?**

**"Anyone 'convinced' against his will – is not convinced!"**

**Does 'punitive' punishment work?**

**Rehabilitation or punishment?**

**Who is excluded?**

**Who is included?**

**Who has a seat at the table?**

**Power or empowerment?**

**Economic rationalism?**

**User pays?**

**Survival of the fittest!**

**I win – you lose!**

**"It takes a whole village to raise a child!"**

**The power of perception.**

**Who are the key players in this situation?**

**Who is taken for granted?**

**Who sets the rules?**

**Who says 'what game we will play'?**

**Who has become an 'it' – of no consequence?**

**Who feels powerless?**

**Who is trapped?**

**Who is empowered?**

**Who has claimed their voice?**

**Who is robbed of their dignity?**

**Who is a pawn on someone else's chess game?**

**Who is the puppeteer and who are the puppets?**

**Who is the outsider?**

**'He' calls the shots (why isn't it 'she')!**

**It is all too much – where do you begin?**

**Does working with the poor isolate you from working with other groups who are also working with the poor?**

**Who holds the purse-strings?**

**What can you see?**

**What do you sense is there but you can't see it?**

**Why can't you see it?**

**Who allows you to see what?**

**Who are the gate-keepers to this situation?**

**Whose voice is a whisper?**

**Why is that voice a whisper?**

**There is a Church working here but it is not the Sunday Mass one.**

**How do you change the system?**

**Can you change the system?**

**What is the politics of fear?**

**Why is the politics of fear so effective?**

**Where is the Institutional Church in all of this?**

**Does Religion play a role in poverty?**

**What role can religion play in keeping people poor?**

**Who is the outcast?**

**What is blocking people's voices?**

**What are the roadblocks?**

**What is fuelling the fear?**

**What are the causal factors?**

**What is the cause and effect at play here?**

**What piece of the jigsaw do you think you have to understand this situation?**

**What labels are limiting?**

**What is 'unfree' in this situation?**

**Who is 'unfree' in this situation?**

**Who is blinkered?**

**What are the blinkers?**

**What voice does and what voice does not count; the feminine, the earth voice, the indigenous, the peasant, the worker, the disabled, the child ....?**

**Who does not want to see?**

**Who is afraid?**

**Who is truly free?**

**Where is the 'face of God'?**

**Where is the 'face of love'?**

Who are the hands of Jesus?  
Who reached out?  
Who has clenched hands?  
Who is blind?  
Who is crippled?  
Who is the 'us' and who the 'them'?  
Why must it be 'us' and 'them'?  
Who is other?  
What does 'other' mean?  
How do we 'un-other'?  
The 'other' is my sister and my brother whom I am yet to meet. Is this true?  
Who is my 'sister', my 'brother' here?  
Why does it have to be like this?  
Why do we 'walk by'?  
Why do we 'walk by on the other side?'  
What is the road that divides us?  
Can I truly walk in the shoes of my brother or sister for a mile?  
Who is stuck?  
Who walked away?  
Does comfort blind?  
Does comfort bind?  
Who sets the conformity rules?  
Are we truly a global village?

What chains bind us?  
Is anyone totally free?  
What would Jesus do?  
Who came as guest to this situation – who did not?  
What made it hard to come as a guest?  
What does a guest look like in this situation?  
What does 'presence' look like in this situation?  
Who was present?  
Who was not 'present'?  
Who was vulnerable here?  
Was I vulnerable?  
What is the story here?



**What critical thinking questions can you come up with? The best questions are those that come from within, from YOUR experience.**