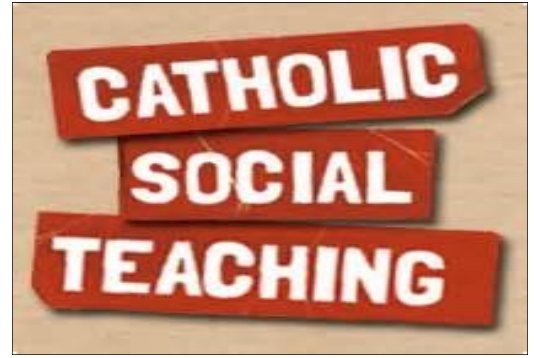


Catholic Social Teaching is central to our faith, and is based on — and inseparable from — our understanding of human life and dignity. These teachings are derived from the words of Christ, papal statements and encyclicals and pastoral letters. It calls us all to work for the common good, help build a just society, uphold the dignity of human life and lift up the poor and vulnerable. Summarized below are the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition. Sign up for *JustFaith* to learn more!



1 LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. We are called to protect the unborn, oppose euthanasia, end the death penalty and avoid war while working to resolve conflicts by peaceful means.



2 CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

The human person is both sacred and social. How we organize our society — socially, economically, legally and politically — directly affects human dignity and the ability of every human person to grow in community. Every person has a right to participate in society and a duty to work for the advancement of the common good and the well-being of all.



3 SOLIDARITY

We are one human family. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Our love for all of our brothers and sisters calls us to seek a peaceful and just society where goods are distributed fairly, opportunity is promoted equally and the dignity of all is respected.



4 DIGNITY OF WORK & THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continued participation in God's creation. To uphold the dignity of work, the basic rights of workers must be respected: the right to productive work, to fair and livable wages, to organize and join a union, to private property and to economic initiative.



5 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Each person also has a right to the conditions for living a decent life — food, health care, housing, education and employment. We have a corresponding duty to secure and respect these rights for others and to fulfill our responsibilities to our families, to each other and to our larger society.



6 OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

A fundamental measure of our society is how we care for and stand with our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters. Scripture teaches that God has a special concern for the poor and vulnerable. The church calls on us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. This preferential option for the poor and vulnerable should be reflected in both our daily lives and in public policies.



7 CARE FOR CREATION

We are called to protect our planet, living our faith in relationship with all of creation. Our stewardship of the earth is a form of participation in God's act of creating and sustaining the world. In our use of creation, we must be guided by a concern for generations to come.