

Catholic Social Teaching

1. Dignity of the Human Person

Every person has inherent dignity because they are created in the image and likeness of God. This foundation requires a focus on "Integral Human Development," promoting the well-being of every person in every dimension of life.

2. Common Good

We must organize society economically, politically, and legally, to prioritize the good of the entire human family over commercial interests. Human dignity can only be fully realized and protected through our relationships with society-at-large.

3. Solidarity

A commitment to community and recognition that we are all interconnected and "in this together." It involves fighting the structural causes of poverty and inequality to prioritize the life of all over the goods of a few.

4. Preferential Option for the Poor

A society is morally tested by how it treats its most vulnerable members. We are called to prioritize the needs of the poor over the desires of the rich and ensure workers' rights take priority over profits.

5. Stewardship of Creation

The Earth is sacred and must be protected and cherished for its intrinsic value. We are responsible for holding the environment in trust for future generations, cultivating it with responsible freedom.

6. Subsidiarity & the Role of Government

Functions of government should be performed at the lowest level possible, provided they can be handled adequately. The state's primary task is to promote human dignity and protect the rights of all citizens.

7. Participation

Because human beings are social, everyone has the right and duty to participate in the community and in decisions that affect their lives. No one should be excluded from contributing to civic life.

8. Rights & Responsibilities

Every person has a right to the things required for human dignity, innately linked to the responsibility to ensure those same rights for others. A just society requires mutual duties to establish a fair civic order.

9. Economic Justice

The economy must serve the people rather than people serving the economy. All persons have a right to dignified work and fair wages, and consumers have a moral responsibility to use their purchasing power for social good.

10. Peace

Peace is more than just the absence of war; it is a positive "enterprise of justice" and the fruit of charity. It represents being in a right relationship with God and with one another.