

Themes from Catholic Social Teaching

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Every human life has value and dignity. A moral society protects life from conception until natural death. We must prevent attacks on human life, such as abortion, euthanasia, cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the death penalty. We cannot harm innocent life in war or terrorist attacks. We must seek peace and other methods to solve conflicts that promote human life.



Call to Family, Community, and Participation



People are social beings. How we organize our society's economy, politics, law, and policies affects people's dignity and ability to grow. Marriage and family are key social institutions and we should support and strengthen them. People have a right and duty to participate in society. We should all seek the common good to ensure the well being of all members, especially people who are poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

A healthy community protects human dignity and human rights. Every person has a right to life and the things needed to live decent lives like food, clothing, shelter, and education. These rights come with responsibilities too. We have a responsibility to help each other, our families, and our community so that everyone's rights are protected.



Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

We need to consider how the most vulnerable members in our community are faring. Our society has a growing division between people who are rich and poor. It is up to us to put the needs of people who are poor and vulnerable first and close this division.



The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers



Workers have basic rights that must be protected. These include the right to decent and fair wages, to safe working conditions, and to the organization and joining of unions. They also have dignity that must be respected. This involves having productive and meaningful work and economic initiative. Their work should be a way to participate in God's creation and the economy should benefit all workers.

Solidarity

We are one human family regardless of our background, beliefs, looks, or culture. We are all brothers and sisters and must love our neighbor on a global level. Solidarity means promoting peace and justice in a world full of violence and conflict.



Care for God's Creation



We show respect for God by caring for His creation. This is a daily task and an ethical issue. We are called to protect the planet and all the living things on it. Rather than destroying creation, we must live in harmony with it.