

# **Catholic Social Teaching, explained...**

Dignity of the human person

Family and Community

Solidarity and The Common Good

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Rights and Responsibilities

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Stewardship of God's creation

# **Dignity of the Human Person**

Each person is made 'in the image and likeness of God.' Thus it follows that 'every person's life and dignity must be respected and supported from conception until the end of their natural life on earth.'

**Caritas in Action**



Respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that "everyone should look upon his neighbour (without any exception) as 'another self,' above all bearing in mind his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity."  
CCC 1931

St. Maximillian Kolbe



Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.  
**Jeremiah 1:5**

Then God said,  
'And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us.'  
So God created human beings, making them to be like himself.  
**Genesis 1:26-27**



How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure,  
But it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion.  
**Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium**



Migrants and Refugees (3 Dec)  
Prisoners and their families. (esp. Prisons Week 2nd week in Oct)  
Human Life (Day for Life last Sunday in July)

**CSPP:** Compassionate & Loving  
Attentive & Discerning



# **Family and Community**

‘the family, in which the various generations come together and help one another grow wiser and harmonise personal rights with the other requirements of social life, is the foundation of society.’

**Gaudium et Spes**



The vocation of humanity is to show forth the image of God and to be transformed into the image of the Father's only Son. This vocation takes a personal form since each of us is called to enter into the divine beatitude; it also concerns the human community as a whole.

**CCC 1877**

The Holy Family



So in Christ we, though many form one body and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the gift given to each of us  
**Romans 12: 5-6**

You shall love your neighbour as yourself  
**Matthew 22: 39**



A community needs a soul if it is to become a true home for human beings. You, the people, must give it this soul.

**St. Pope John Paul II**



The Holy Family (Sunday after Christmas)  
Christian Unity (esp. Octave of Prayer to 25 Jan)  
The Church (esp. Pentecost)

**CSPP: Compassionate & Loving**



# **Solidarity and the Common Good**

Promoting the common good cannot be pursued by treating each individual separately and looking for the highest 'total benefit', in some kind of utilitarian addition.

Because we are interdependent, the common good is more like a multiplication sum, where if any one number is zero then the total is always zero.

If anyone is left out and deprived of what is essential, then the common good has been betrayed.

**Choosing the Common Good**



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### Choosing the Common Good

St. Therese  
of Lisieux



If one part suffers,  
every part suffers with  
it; if one part is  
honoured, every part  
rejoices with it.

**I Corinthians 12:26**

And the King will  
answer them, ‘Truly, I  
say to you, as you did it  
to one of the least of  
these my brothers, you  
did it to me.’

**Matthew 25:40**



The many situations of inequality, poverty and injustice, are signs not only of a profound lack of fraternity, but also of the absence of a culture of solidarity. New ideologies, characterized by rampant individualism, egocentrism and materialistic consumerism, weaken social bonds, fuelling that “throw away” mentality which leads to contempt for, and the abandonment of, the weakest and those considered “useless”. In this way human coexistence increasingly tends to resemble a mere *do ut des* (I give so that you may give) which is both pragmatic and selfish.

**Pope Francis**

Day of Prayer for Peace 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun  
Ordinary Time



The Needy and Hungry of the World  
(*esp. Lent Fast Day 1<sup>st</sup> Fri in Lent*)

**CSPP:** Learned & Wise  
Faith-filled & Hopeful





# **Rights and Responsibilities**

Man has the right to live. He has the right to bodily integrity and to the means necessary for the proper development of life, particularly food, clothing, shelter, medical care, rest and finally the necessary social services. In consequence, he has the right to be looked after in the event of ill health; disability stemming from his work; widowhood; old age; enforced unemployment; or whenever through no fault of his own he is deprived of the means of livelihood.'

**Pacem in Terris**



The right to live involves the duty to preserve one's life; the right to a decent standard of living, the duty to live in a becoming fashion; the right to be free to seek out the truth, the duty to devote oneself to an ever deeper and wider search for it. ...Every basic human right draws its authoritative force from the natural law, which confers it and attaches to it its respective duty. Hence, to claim one's rights and ignore one's duties, or only half fulfil them, is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other.

**Pacem in Terris**

St. Vincent de Paul



Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

**Isaiah 1:16**

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

**Proverbs 31:8-9**



A link has often been noted between claims to a "right to excess", and even to transgression and vice, within affluent societies, and the lack of food, drinkable water, basic instruction and elementary health care in areas of the underdeveloped world and on the outskirts of large metropolitan centres. The link consists in this: individual rights, when detached from a framework of duties which grants them their full meaning, can run wild, leading to an escalation of demands which is effectively unlimited and indiscriminate.

**Pope Benedict XVI**



The Sick and those who care for them  
(World day of prayer for the Sick 11 Feb)

The Right Use of the Media (*esp. World Communications Day 7<sup>th</sup> Sun of Easter*)  
Oppression and Denial of Human Rights (*esp. on St. John Fisher & St. Thomas More 22 June*)

**CSPP: Curious & Active**



## **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

‘The Church's love for the poor ... is a part of her constant tradition.’ This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor. Love for the poor is even one of the motives for the duty of working so as to ‘be able to give to those in need.’ It extends not only to material poverty but also to the many forms of cultural and religious poverty.

**CCC 2447**



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**CCC 2444**

St. Mother  
Teresa  
of Calcutta



The spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me... to let the oppressed go free.

**Luke 4:18**

Blessed is the poor, theirs is the Kingdom of God

**Luke 6:20**



“For the Church, a preference for the poor is not optional”

“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

**Pope Francis**



Migrants and Refugees (3 Dec)  
The Needy and Hungry of the  
World (esp. Lent Fast Day 1st Fri in  
Lent)  
Victims of Human Trafficking (esp. St.  
Josephine Bakhita 8 Feb)

**CSPP:** Intentional & Prophetic



# **Stewardship of God's Creation**

We are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone. Hence every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged.

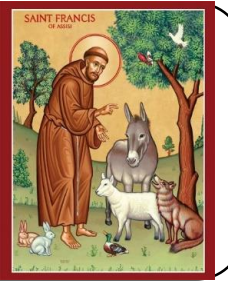
**Laudato Si**



Who turned the wonderworld of the seas into underwater cemeteries bereft of colour and life?

**Catholic Bishops of the Philippines, 1988**

St. Francis  
of Assisi



You laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

**Hebrews 1:10**

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

**Genesis 2: 15**



“Creation is not a property which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude”

**Pope Francis**

The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation

The Season of Creation (1 September-4 October) (esp. Day of Prayer for Creation 1 September)



Prayers giving thanks and praise to God for creation and their gifts

Psalms of Creation

St Francis' Canticles of Creation

**CSPP:** International & Prophetic



# **The Dignity of Work**

For the Church work is seen as a continuance of the gift of Creation whereby we are 'co-creators of Gods world and work is part of our contribution.'

Work is also seen as something which brings dignity to the human person as it is the means 'of providing for his life and that of his family, and of serving the human community.'

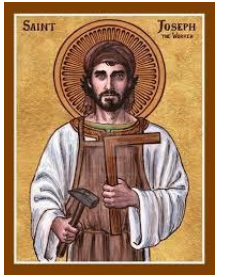
**Dignity of Work: Catholic Social Teaching**  
**CCC 2428**





In work, the person exercises and fulfils in part their potential inscribed in their nature. The primordial value of labour stems from each person themselves, its author and its beneficiary. Work is for humankind, not humankind for work. Everyone should be able to draw from work the means of providing for their life and that of their family, and of serving the human community. **CCC 2428**

St. Joseph  
the worker



Go and work in my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is right.  
**Matthew 20: 4**

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for human masters.  
**Colossians 3:23**



Jesus became like us in all things, devoted most of the years of his life on earth to manual work at the carpenters bench.  
**St. Pope John Paul II**



The Unemployed (esp. Sunday before 1st Sun of Lent)  
Human Work (esp. on St. Joseph the Worker I May)

**CSPP:** Attentive & Discerning

