

7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

1. Life in Dignity of the Human Person

- Catholic Church proclaims/teaches that all life is sacred from womb to tomb.
- The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral society.
- Catholic Church finds itself opposed to abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, the death penalty, and cloning.
- Also does everything we can to avoid war.

2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation

- How we organize our societies in economics, politics, law, and policy directly affects human dignity.
- Marriage and family are the central social institutions and must be strengthened and supported.
- People have a right and duty to participate in society for the common good, especially the poor and vulnerable.

3. Rights and Responsibilities

- Protection of human dignity can be achieved if rights are protected and responsibilities are met.
- Everyone has a fundamental right to the things needed for human decency, i.e. shelter, food, clothing, access to medical care, source of income, education.

4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- A basic moral test for any society is how the most vulnerable are fairing.
- Our tradition reminds us of the Last Judgment scene from Mathew 25:31-46 and instructs us to do likewise with the poor and vulnerable.

5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- The economy must serve people, not the other way around.
- If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the rights of the workers needs to be respected.
- Rights of workers: Decent and fair wages, the organization and joining of labor unions, to private property, to economic initiative.

6. Solidarity *Crucial Theme

- We are one human family regardless of national, racial, ethnic, religious, economic, or ideological differences.
- We are brothers and sisters keepers.
- Loving our neighbors has global dimensions in a shrinking world.

- Pope Paul VI: "If you want peace, work for justice."

7. Care for God's Creation

- Stewards of the environment, of the world-> called to protect the planet, and doing shows respect for the creator.