

The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

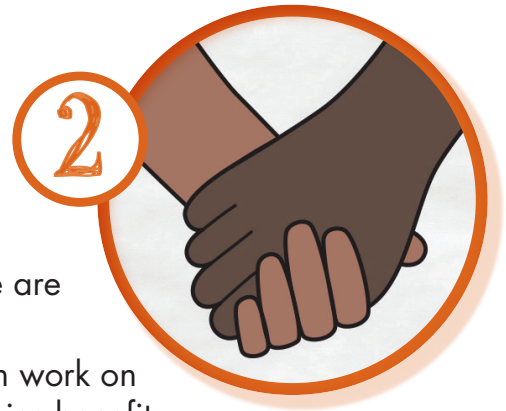


Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- Every life is sacred, and every person has dignity no matter their circumstances in life.
- No one life is more valuable than another; every life is significant.
- Every person is a child of God, and every person is precious.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

- Human beings are communal and cannot live in isolation.
- The most important community is family; we are called to strengthen and protect families.
- By participating in our communities, we can work on social issues and ensure that laws and policies benefit the common good.



Rights and Responsibilities

- Every person has rights, such as the right to life, food, shelter, and work.
- Every person has economic, political, and cultural rights.
- Along with these rights come the responsibilities to help others in our society and to protect and safeguard the rights of others.



Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- Jesus focused on those in most need—people who were disabled, diseased, and outcast.
- We are encouraged to look for people who might need our help.
- By celebrating the Eucharist, the sacrament of unity, we commit ourselves to concern for those who are poor and in need.



The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- All occupations are valuable and should be respected.
- Workers have a right to earn fair wages, to work in safe conditions, and to join unions.
- By being responsible consumers, we can use our consumer power to better the lives of workers around the globe.

Solidarity

- Regardless of culture, race, or social status, we are called to be nonjudgmental in our support for one another.
- We commit ourselves to seeking common solutions to problems in an atmosphere of respectful dialogue and to working for peace in the world.



Care for God's Creation

- Care for the Earth and all of God's creation is essential to our faith.
- We have a responsibility to take care of the Earth's resources.
- Each day we are faced with choices that either help sustain our environment or contribute to the abuse of the tremendous gift of God's creation.

