

# Session One: Exploring Catholic Social Teaching and the Social Challenges Impacting Hispanic/Latino Catholics



Image: Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development,  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



# Learning Outcomes



Image:  
PowerPoint  
Designs

- ❑ Describe some of the key sources of the Church's social teaching.
- ❑ Promote the seven Catholic Social Teaching (CST) themes.
- ❑ Identify ways to adapt CST activities for various ages, ministries, and cultures.
- ❑ Identify CST biblical passages to mobilize your communities to address current social, political, economic, and religious realities within your local context.
- ❑ Find opportunities to link the Church's social teaching to liturgical catechesis and formation activities on the sacraments and the Church's social mission.
- ❑ Use different tools, resources, and best practices to analyze and act on the social challenges impacting Hispanic/Latino communities.
- ❑ Join local and regional efforts to create systemic change.



# See-Judge (Discern)-Act Methodology

- ❑ **Interpret** the “signs of the times” (Vatican II, *Gaudium et Spes*).
- ❑ **“Illuminate** with an unchanging light the new problems that are constantly emerging” (*Caritas in Veritate*, no. 12).
- ❑ Put our faith in **action**... “Each day we have to decide whether to be good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders” (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 69).

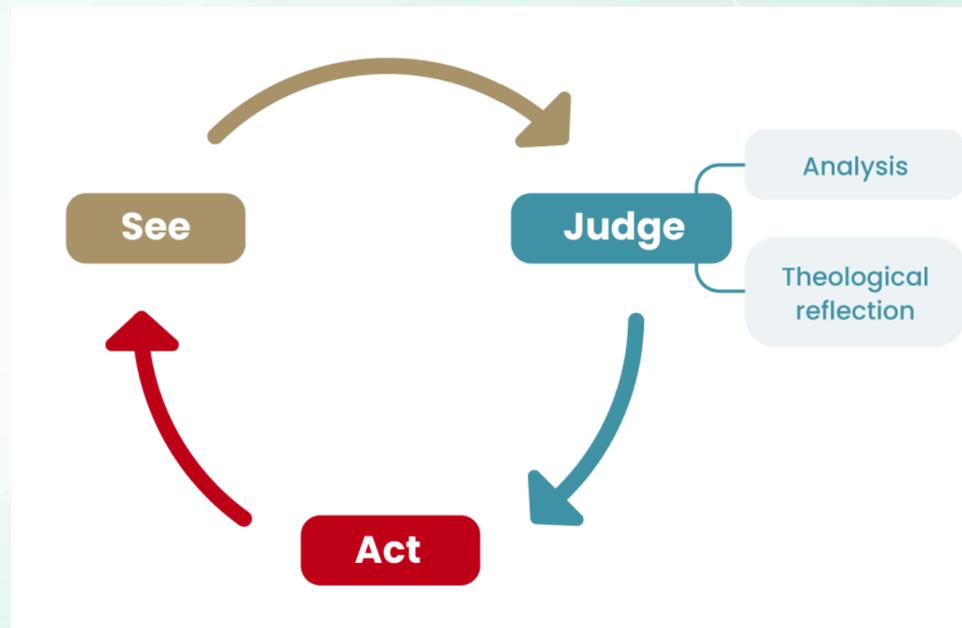


Image: Caritas Europa



# SEE



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# Overview of the USCCB's Pastoral and Advocacy/Policy Work



Image: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

# What Are the Most Pressing Social Challenges Impacting Hispanic/Latino Catholics in Our Communities?



Image: Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development,  
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# Group Discussion: Sharing and Listening to Different Perspectives

- ❑ What social issues have the Popes and U.S. bishops spoken about in recent years?
- ❑ Why is it appropriate for the Church to speak on social, economic, or political questions?
- ❑ In your opinion, what are the most pressing social challenges impacting Hispanic/Latino Catholics in your communities?



# Video Discussion



## Catholics Participate in Public Life



# JUDGE (DISCERN)



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# Exploring the CST Foundational Documents and Major Themes

## CST 101 THEMES FROM CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.



### LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. Human life is threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.



### CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.



### RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.



### OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.



### THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.



### SOLIDARITY

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Blessed Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice." The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.



### CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan; it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

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Text is drawn from United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Priorities*. © Copyright 2012. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services. All rights reserved. Photos courtesy of Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS.  
\* Paul VI, *Evangelii in Tempore* (Rome: January 1, 1972).



# What is Catholic Social Teaching (CST)?

- ❑ Catholic Social Teaching is a central and essential element of our faith (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1397).
- ❑ Catholic Social Teaching is built on a commitment to the poor and vulnerable.
- ❑ Catholic Social Teaching is a wealth of practical wisdom about the interrelatedness of social justice, personal holiness, and the evangelizing mission of the Church.
- ❑ Catholic Social Teaching is based on and inseparable from our understanding of human life and human dignity.
- ❑ Catholic Social Teaching is “always living and active” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2421).

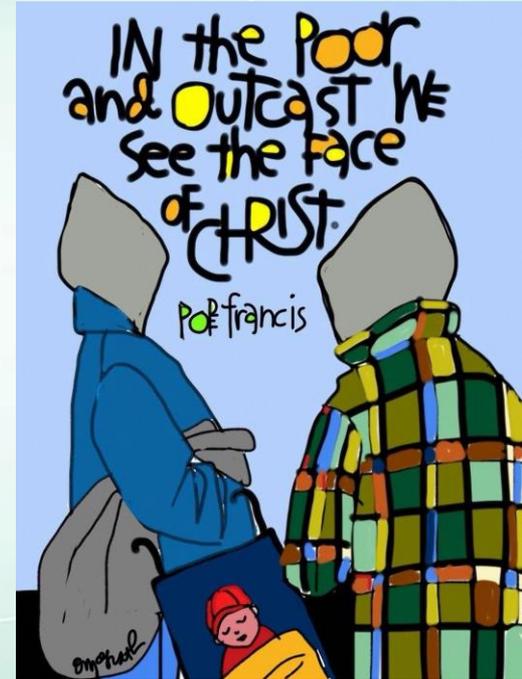


Image: Courtesy of Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS



# Key Understandings of Catholic Social Teaching for the Modern Age

- ❑ Beginning in the 1800s, important changes in society caused new injustices; the Church responded by applying moral law to these new social injustices.
- ❑ The USCCB summarized the social teaching of the Church in seven key themes that served as a guide for living as a disciple in modern society.
- ❑ The USCCB's first key theme focuses on the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person; the other six themes build upon this foundational theme.
- ❑ Key Documents: *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 1998) and *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2003).

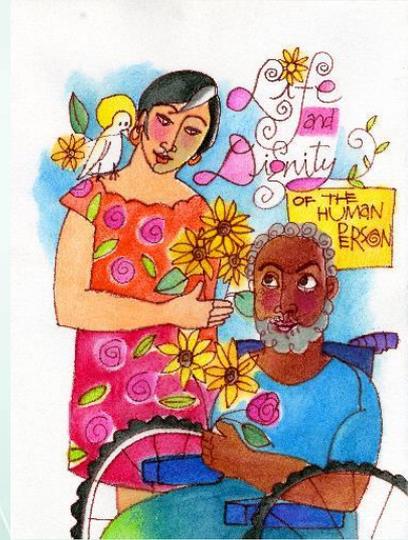


Image: Courtesy of Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS



# Papal and Vatican Documents on the Social Mission of the Church

- ❑ [Rerum Novarum](#) (On the Condition of Labor) — Pope Leo XIII, 1891
- ❑ [Quadragesimo Anno](#) (After Forty Years) — Pope Pius XI, 1931
- ❑ [Mater et Magistra](#) (Christianity and Social Progress) — St. John XXIII, 1961
- ❑ [Pacem in Terris](#) (Peace on Earth) — St. John XXIII, 1963
- ❑ [Gaudium et Spes](#) (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World) — Second Vatican Council, 1965
- ❑ [Dignitatis Humanae](#) (Declaration on Religious Freedom) — Second Vatican Council, 1965
- ❑ [Populorum Progressio](#) (On the Development of Peoples) — St. Paul VI, 1967
- ❑ [Octogesima Adveniens](#) (A Call to Action) — St. Paul VI, 1971
- ❑ [Evangelii Nuntiandi](#) (Evangelization in the Modern World) — St. Paul VI, 1975
- ❑ [Laborem Exercens](#) (On Human Work) — St. John Paul II, 1981
- ❑ [Sollicitudo Rei Socialis](#) (On Social Concern) — St. John Paul II, 1987
- ❑ [Centesimus Annus](#) (The Hundredth Year) — St. John Paul II, 1991
- ❑ [Veritatis Splendor](#) (The Splendor of Truth) — St. John Paul II, 1993
- ❑ [Evangelium Vitae](#) (The Gospel of Life) — St. John Paul II, 1995



# Papal and Vatican Documents on the Social Mission of the Church (Cont.)

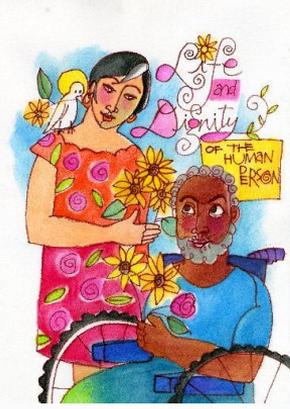
- ❑ [Dignitas Personae](#) (The Dignity of a Person) — Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 1998
- ❑ [Ecclesia in America](#) (The Church in America) — St. John Paul II, 1999
- ❑ [Fides et Ratio](#) (Faith and Reason) — St. John Paul II, 1998
- ❑ [Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life](#) — Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 2002
- ❑ [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church](#) — Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, 2004
- ❑ [Deus Caritas Est](#) (God Is Love) — Pope Benedict XVI, 2005
- ❑ [Sacramentum Caritatis](#) (The Eucharist as the Source and Summit of the Church's Life and Mission) — Pope Benedict XVI, 2007
- ❑ [Caritas in Veritate](#) (Charity in Truth) — Pope Benedict XVI, 2009
- ❑ [Evangelii Gaudium](#) (The Joy of the Gospel) — Pope Francis, 2013
- ❑ [Laudato Si'](#) (On Care for Our Common Home) — Pope Francis, 2015
- ❑ [Querida Amazonia](#) (Beloved Amazon) — Pope Francis, 2022
- ❑ [Fratelli Tutti](#) (On Fraternity and Social Friendship) — Pope Francis, 2020
- ❑ [Laudate Deum](#) (Praise God) — Pope Francis, 2023



# Catholic Social Teaching: Statements by the U.S. Bishops

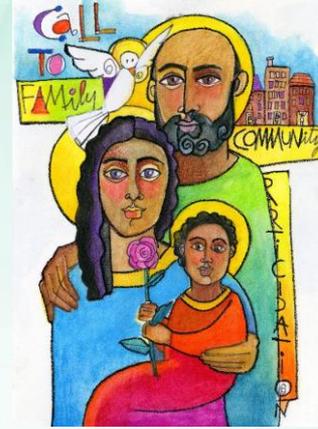
- ❑ **Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love**, *Nov 2018*
- ❑ **Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship**, *Nov 2015* (with 2023 Introductory Note)
- ❑ **A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death**, *Nov 2005*
- ❑ **Catholics in Political Life**, *June 2004*
- ❑ **"For I Was Hungry, and You Gave Me Food"**  
Catholic Reflections on Food, Farmers, and Farmworkers, *Dec 2003*
- ❑ **Strangers No Longer**, *Jan 2003*, Bishops of the United States & Mexico
- ❑ **In All Things Charity: A Pastoral Challenge for the New Millennium**, *Nov 1999*
- ❑ **Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions**, *June 1999*
- ❑ **Called to Global Solidarity**, *Nov 1997*
- ❑ **Communities of Salt and Light**, *Nov 1993*
- ❑ **Economic Justice for All**, *November 1986*
- ❑ **The Challenge of Peace**, *1983*





## Life and Dignity of the Human Person

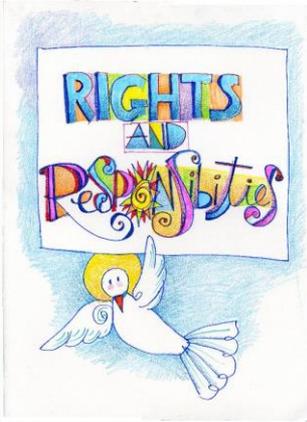
- ❑ All made in God's image = inherent dignity
- ❑ Human life is sacred
- ❑ Good of persons as the foundation of vision for society
- ❑ A fulfilled life as intended by God



## Call to Family, Community, and Participation

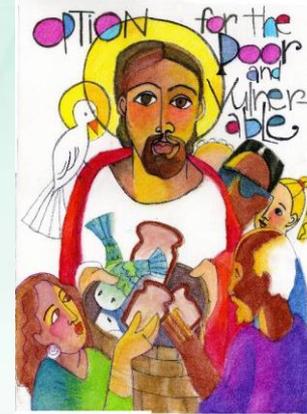
- ❑ Human development happens in relationships
- ❑ Family is the basic institution
- ❑ Participation of all in communities and society
- ❑ The human person is not only sacred but also social





## Rights and Responsibilities

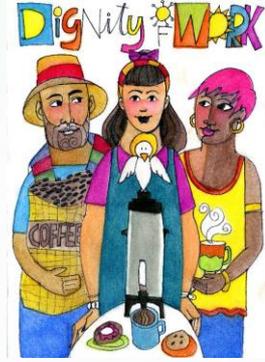
- ❑ Basic human rights must be protected
  - Civil and political rights
  - Economic rights
- ❑ Corresponding duties
  - Toward oneself
  - Toward others
  - Duties of society, government



## Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- ❑ Weak, vulnerable, and most in need deserve preferential concern
- ❑ Basic moral test = how we treat the most vulnerable
- ❑ The Culture of Encounter
- ❑ The face of Christ





## The Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

- ❑ The economy must serve people, not the other way around
- ❑ Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation
- ❑ Rights and duties of workers and employers



## Solidarity

- ❑ We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences
- ❑ We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be
- ❑ The Body of Christ
- ❑ Loving our neighbor has global dimensions. What does it mean to love our neighbors?



## Care for God's Creation

- ❑ The goods of the earth are for all to share
- ❑ Earth entrusted to us, its stewards
- ❑ Protect the earth for unborn, future generations
- ❑ Interdependence



# The Principles of Subsidiarity and the Common Good



## SUBSIDIARITY

FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP



## THE COMMON GOOD

FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP



# ACT



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# National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry

- ❑ Mentions CST 7 times
- ❑ **Highlights JPHD Resources/Initiatives:** Catholic Social Teaching (CST), Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), Two Feet of Love in Action, and the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG)
- ❑ **National Projects & Initiatives:**
  - Social Justice Formation and Mission (p.51)
    - Activity #4: Provide opportunities for formation in Catholic Social Teaching and practices, including direct action, advocacy, and community organizing.

## Missionary Disciples Going Forth with Joy



**NATIONAL PASTORAL PLAN  
FOR HISPANIC/LATINO MINISTRY**  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



Image: Our Sunday Visitor



# Breakouts: Discussion Questions

- How does Catholic Social Teaching illuminate the social challenges impacting Hispanic/Latino Catholics in our communities?
- Which of these teachings do you find difficult to put into practice?





BREAKOUT GROUPS



# Plenary

Image: Courtesy of Yohan Garcia



# Avoiding Ideological Conflicts

- ❑ Stay focused on the Church's social teaching, especially its basic themes and principles, regarding human life, human rights, justice, and peace.
- ❑ Acknowledge that persons of goodwill might legitimately disagree over how to apply this teaching in particular circumstances, especially complex social situations.
- ❑ Use the Church's social teaching as a lens to look at the moral and human dimensions of public issues.
- ❑ Over time, address a wide range of issues of concern to the Church, especially foundational matters of human life and dignity, to avoid the appearance of being ideological. Do not just focus on a few social issues of special interest to you.
- ❑ Encourage dialogue and respect for the dignity of each participant in the discussion.



## I PLEDGE

To affirm through my words and actions the dignity of every person, each made in God's image. Even those with whom I disagree are made in his image.

To respectfully listen in order to understand experiences different from my own.

## *CHARITY*

Image: Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, USCCB



# Going Deeper: Learn More and Act



## Find Officials

Contact local government officials to express your concern on upcoming issues or legislation.



## Find Legislation

View and search for upcoming legislation.



## Sign up for Alerts

Enter your information below to sign up.





## Reminder

It takes all of us together to make  
a difference.

**Encounter, Learn, and Act**

