

Seven Significant Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

Living out the six biblical principles requires that we do so while respecting the dignity and worth of all people. The Catholic faith has much to say about being people of justice and peace. Here are seven significant themes that summarize much of Catholic social teaching, which is rooted in Scripture and Tradition and should be woven into the biblical principles that every disciple lives by:

✿ Life and Dignity of the Human Person

At the root of justice is the belief in the dignity and worth of all people. Every person, every life, is precious. People are more important than things.

✿ Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The family is sacred and must be supported and strengthened. Much of this strength comes from being an active part of one's community where we can work together for the common good and well-being of all, especially those who are poor and vulnerable.

✿ Rights and Responsibilities

Each person has a responsibility to help protect for all people the basic rights required for human decency, including the right to life.

✿ Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

The gospel call of Jesus Christ challenges us to place the needs of the poor and vulnerable first, even above our own comforts and wants.

✿ The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

Every person has a right to work and earn a living. By honoring fair wages, we assist people in being active participants in God's ongoing work of creation through honest and meaningful employment.

✿ Solidarity

As members of a global family, we are all connected by an intricate web of life, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. This interconnectedness requires us to live together, united as brothers and sisters, in relationships that are marked by peace, love, and reconciliation instead of war, hatred, and mistrust.

✿ Care for God's Creation

Care for the earth is a requirement of our faith. We are called to live our faith in relationship with all of God's creation, protecting both people and planet.