

Catholic Social Teaching reflects ...▶

on social issues of the day in the

The Common Good



Human Dignity



Solidarity



Participation



✓ common good.

▶ their vocation for the

light of scripture. It ...▶

is a collection of ...▶

Subsidiarity



Stewardship of Creation



Rights and Responsibilities



Option for the Poor



people to live out

Teaching helps

the early Church). Catholic Social

writings by popes,

bishops and Church

Fathers (saints and teachers of

“‘Family’ means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.”

...▶ *Lilo to Stitch in Lilo and Stitch (2002)*

“We are all human, aren’t we? Every human life is worth the same, and worth saving.”

...▶ *Kingsley Shacklebolt in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (2007)*

“All for one and one for all!”

...▶ *Aramis, Porthos and Athos in The Three Musketeers (1993)*

“Life’s not a spectator sport. If watchin’ is all you’re gonna do, you’re gonna watch your life go by without ya.”

...▶ *Laverne to Quasimodo in The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1996)*

“Even the smallest person can change the course of the future.”

...▶ *Galadriel to Frodo in The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)*

“Because of you the future of this entire universe is in jeopardy.”

...▶ *Buzz Lightyear to Woody in Toy Story (1995)*

“With great power comes great responsibility.”

...▶ *Uncle Ben in Spider-Man (2002)*

“When they’re finished putting first class people in the boat, they’ll be starting with us.”

...▶ *Irish mother to her child in Titanic (1997)*

Whatever is needed for each and every person, and creation, to flourish.

Meanings of the CST values

Every human being has in-built dignity because she or he has been created in the image and likeness of God.

Meanings of the CST values

Not just doing things for other people but acting with them to build a more just world together.

Meanings of the CST values

People have a right and a duty to take part in shaping a more just and human society.

Meanings of the CST values

As far as possible, decisions should not be taken at the highest levels, but by the people who are most affected.

Meanings of the CST values

We are called to care for creation as stewards, not just as consumers.

Meanings of the CST values

When one person has a right, others have a responsibility to uphold that right

Meanings of the CST values

To choose to consider the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people first.

Meanings of the CST values

“...always seek to do good to one another and to all.”

...▶ *1 Thessalonians 5:15*

“What are human beings, that you think of them; mere mortals, that you care for them? Yet you made them inferior only to yourself; you crowned them with glory and honour.”

...▶ *Psalm 8:4-5*

“I appeal to you... that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.”

...▶ *1 Corinthians 1:10*

“When each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love.”

...▶ *Ephesians 4:16*

Jethro said to Moses:

“Look for able men among all the people... Let them sit as judges for the people at all times; let them bring every important case to you, but decide every minor case themselves .”

...▶ *Exodus 18:21-22*

“Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion... over all the wild animals of the earth.”

...▶ *Genesis 1:26*

“Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

...▶ *Proverbs 31:9*

“Jesus said: ‘When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.’”

...▶ *Luke 14:13*

“Society exists for the common good. It is concerned with the interests of everyone in general, but also with individual interests.”

...▶ *Pope Leo XIII, On Capital and Labour, 51*

“Human persons are imprinted with God’s image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are.”

...▶ *Saint Pope John Paul II, On the Hundredth Year, 11*

“Solidarity means much more than sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community. It means that the lives of all come before the acquisition of goods by a few... It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of money...”

...▶ *Pope Francis, Sisters and Brothers, All, 116*

“People have an obligation to be participants in the life of society and society has a duty to enable them to participate.”

...▶ *Catholic Bishops of the United States, Economic Justice for All, 71*

“Often, institutions on a higher level make decisions about conditions on which the future of workers and their children depends. The workers themselves should share in deciding these conditions.”

...▶ *Second Vatican Council, Joys and Hopes, 68*

“All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.”

...▶ *Pope Francis, On Care for our Common Home, 14*

“The possession of rights involves the duty of implementing those rights, for they are the expression of a person’s dignity. The possession of rights also involves their recognition and respect by other people.”

...▶ *Saint Pope John XXIII, Peace on Earth, 44*

“This is an option... to which the whole tradition of the Church bears witness. It affects the life of each Christian as he or she seeks to imitate the life of Christ. It applies equally to our social responsibilities and hence to our manner of living.”

...▶ *Saint Pope John Paul II, On Social Concern, 42*

On Capital and Labour

(Rerum Novarum)

Pope Leo XIII wrote this famous encyclical soon after the Industrial Revolution. Before this, some people thought popes should only write about spiritual things. He told employers to treat their workers justly, pay a just wage and allow them to form unions. This would help the poorest but also benefit society.

On the Hundredth Year

(Centesimus Annus)

As the Soviet Union ended, Saint Pope John Paul II said the failure of communism did not mean capitalism was right, for both can undermine human freedom and dignity. He himself had lived under both systems. He called instead for social and economic justice.

Sisters and Brothers, All

(Fratelli Tutti)

At the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Pope Francis issued Fratelli Tutti. Seen as the natural sequel to Laudato Si', he urges a new world order based on solidarity of all people as sisters and brothers, in harmony with the earth.

Economic Justice for All

US Catholic bishops called for economic reforms so the poorest people would not be excluded. They said everyone should be free to take part in the public life of the nation.

Joys and Hopes

(Gaudium et Spes)

This document from Vatican II (a major council of the world's bishops, called by Saint Pope John XXIII and completed by Saint Pope Paul VI) explored how individuals, families and communities could help build a more just society. Decisions should not only be taken at a high level, but by the people whose lives were affected.

On Care for our Common Home

(Laudato Si')

Pope Francis wrote this encyclical as world leaders prepared to meet in Paris to discuss ways to tackle climate change. He said that we must change our thinking on what 'progress' means, for the sake of the earth and its people – especially the poorest.

Peace on Earth

(Pacem in Terris)

Soon after the US and Russia had reached the brink of nuclear war, Pope John XXIII taught that each of us has a responsibility to work for peace.

On Social Concern

(Sollicitudo Rei Socialis)

Rich countries were working together across the world more and more. But the systems they set up to do this, like the global trade system, often made life harder for the poorest countries. Saint Pope John Paul II called for justice.

The local park is in a mess and a nearby Mosque has organised an event for small groups to go out with refuse sacks on a Saturday morning and pick up litter there. A man and his daughter knock on your door and ask politely for your family's support.

What will you do? ...▶

What has influenced your decision? ...▶

Your elderly father has poor short-term memory. He has got lost while out driving several times and he can be slow to react. He feels that driving is an important part of the person he is as a husband and father. He's never had an accident in 70 years of driving. You are increasingly worried.

What will you do? ...▶

What has influenced your decision? ...▶

You are coming back home from a football match and a large, heavily tattooed opposition supporter is walking alone on the other side of the road. Suddenly, he bends double and sinks to his knees and seems in real difficulties.

What will you do? ...▶

What has influenced your decision? ...▶

Over recent years, your town has become home to a large number of refugee families including one next door to you who are friendly. The local paper has been featuring readers' complaints that refugees keep themselves to themselves and look down on local people. A local Councillor is holding a public meeting about what to do about it.

What will you do? ...▶

What has influenced your decision? ...▶

Your children approach you one evening because they and their friends have just read a Council notice in the local park about redeveloping “The Nook”, an open area where their friends meet to play football.

What will you do? ...▶

What has influenced your decision? ...▶

Your partner says you’re a hoarder when you find it hard to throw stuff out and you are more concerned about having warm rather than fashionable clothes in winter. You’re going through your wardrobe together. There’s that winter coat and yes, it’s a bit past its best and takes up scarce space.

What will you do? ...▶

What has influenced your decision? ...▶

You have encouraged a friend whose family was from Ethiopia to apply for a job at your work for which she is suitable. She asks you about your colleagues. As you talk, you realise that all the staff are white, male and none of them have a disability.

What will you do? ...▶

What has influenced your decision? ...▶

You notice that the person ahead of you in the shop queue doesn’t have enough money to pay for their purchases.

What will you do? ...▶

What has influenced your decision? ...▶

More than food: feeding children, building purpose: St Mary's Grub Club: Together 4 the Common Good

Parishioners were concerned about families struggling locally and felt our faith was compelling us to 'do something'. Our primary school staff told us many children were going hungry in the holidays as money was tight. We resolved to work together.

That summer, we held 11 lunchtime holiday sessions, serving hot and nutritious meals for children, parents and volunteers and running activities. We'd found we had the skills, the commitment and the contacts. The money, referrals from local schools and offers of help poured in. We had created a Holiday Hunger Club, owned and valued by the community!



Photo: Elvira Jephcott

Life on Benefits for young families: Catholic Children's Society Westminster

We asked four single mothers about life on Universal Credit. All were struggling to pay for even essentials. So, they'd borrowed from family and friends, repaying from next month's UC. They had also to pay for transport to the distant Job Centre to meet their work coach, or lose money. They felt pressure to return to work and looked down on. And yet, they all felt it was they who were the best people to look after their very young children and asked, "Why would the Government choose to pay a stranger to look after our children and not support us to do it?"



Photo: Catholic Children's Society Westminster

Kirsty's story: Caritas Middlesbrough

"I was abused as a child, self-harmed and turned to drink. At 21, I gave birth to my daughter, but she gave me reasons to live. She had long stays in hospital missing school and later, her younger sister. Our benefits were sanctioned and stopped. We were burgled, lost our home twice with money and the Bedroom Tax and at times I struggled to feed the girls. Throughout it all, we would never have managed without CAUSE supporting us with food, clothes, beds and bedding as well as Pat's emotional support. They have been our rock, there whenever we really needed."

"I've just completed a course and hope to turn life around for us so the girls will be proud of me. Our love keeps us going and despite the struggles, we won't give in."



Photo: CAUSE/Caritas Diocese of Middlesbrough

Celebrating difference: Caritas Jersey

Jersey is home to many ethnic groups. To reduce social tensions and help integration, Caritas Jersey supports people from other nations. As "Caritas" was known and trusted by people from around the world as a

unifying force, they formed "Caritas International Association", owned and run by representatives from 15 nations, from all faiths and none. To celebrate their backgrounds positively, an 'international' table at the local fete served Polish, Portuguese, Italian and Romanian food with Russian tea from a Samovar!



Photo: Caritas Jersey

A fresh start - Community Sponsorship: CSAN

St Monica's Community Group in Manchester were the first Catholic parish to sponsor a Syrian refugee family. For his family's future, Samir dreamed of his own restaurant.



All the planning and decision-making with Samir was done with the Group. Using their contacts, they found suitable premises. A local removals firm and a golf club provided tools and materials for the kitchen. The Group did the work itself. Their Lead Sponsor's Finance Department managed the interest-free business loan from the Group's Sponsorship Fund.

Photo: M.E.N.

Celia's story: Friendship and skills exchange: Caritas Diocese of Salford

Celia came along to a new friendship group in her parish. She had been widowed for some years and felt lonely and isolated. Her confidence grew over the weeks and when she generously shared her skills in knitting and sewing, we found she had worked as a seamstress. The group was amazed, and Celia realised that she could make a positive contribution to the group which went on to reach out to young mums. They had also felt uninvolved and isolated and when they joined the group, they learned from the wisdom and skills of the older members and deep friendships grew.



Photo: Caritas Diocese of Salford

SENSitive Group: Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury

The SENSitive Group was formed as a support and campaign group by and for parents with children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. After listening to parents' concerns, the group drew up priorities to improve the children's life chances and shared their findings with key agencies in Manchester. Next, they represented the families by challenging the parliamentary candidates at the General Election hustings, securing a commitment to work together from the MP. The group has since engaged with other faith and community organisations so that the families' voices were heard at the Greater Manchester Mayoral Election.



Photo: Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury

A surprising choice: Catholic Care (Diocese of Leeds)

"After having depression, my Occupational Therapist suggested I try voluntary work to help me get over it and boost my confidence. I dragged my feet. Luckily, she persisted, and, in the end, I decided to give it a try working with group of older people who had become isolated each week. After the first week, I was hooked and just wanted to get to know these amazing people.

When I started, I was shy and my confidence was shot. Choosing to volunteer changed everything for me."

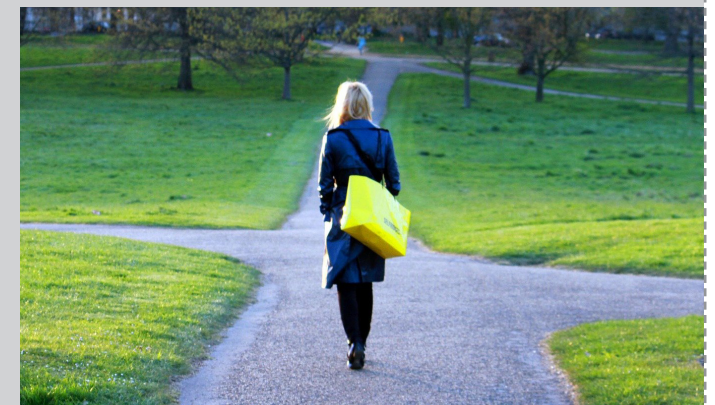


Photo: Pixabay