

Diocese of Boise

Office of Religious Education and Catechetical Leadership

The Office of Religious Education and Catechetical Leadership supports the mission of the Diocese of Boise by assisting the Bishop in carrying out his role as the chief catechist of the diocese.

Basic Catechist Certification Social Teaching



Kathy Barkdull, Presenter

Opening Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, you have brought us together to bestow your mercy and grace.

Open our eyes to see those times that we have failed to acknowledge the dignity and value of each human being and have ignored their needs.

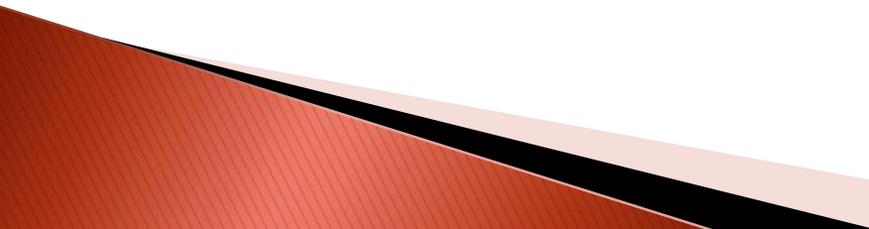
Forgive us for the times that we have failed in our duties to love and serve one another.

Touch our hearts and return them to you.

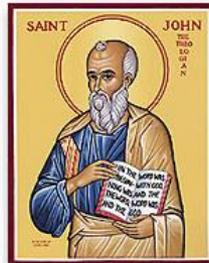
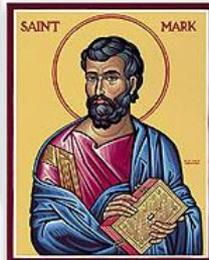
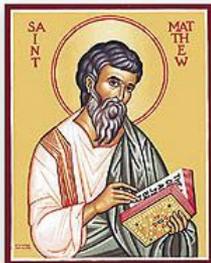
May your power heal and strengthen us, and may we be recommitted in our baptismal service to be promoters and defenders of your life within each human being.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Catholic Social Teaching



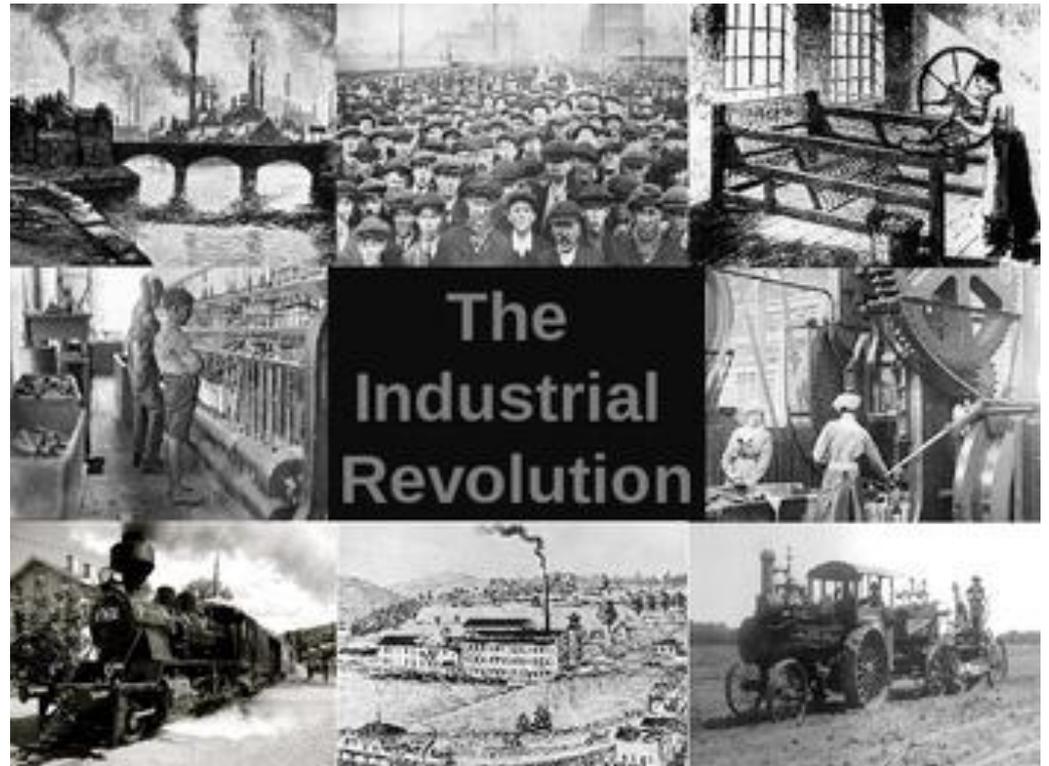
To bring “good news to the poor”

To bring “liberty to captives”

To bring “new sight to the blind”

To “set the downtrodden free”

Sign of the Times



Key Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

- ▶ Life and Dignity of the Human Person
 - ▶ Call to Family, Community, and Participation
 - ▶ Rights and Responsibilities
 - ▶ Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
 - ▶ The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
 - ▶ Solidarity
 - ▶ Care of God's Creation
- 

Respect for Human Life



- ▶ All human life is sacred.
- ▶ Each person is created in the image of God.

“There exist also sinful inequalities that affect millions of men and women. These are in open contradiction of the Gospel: Their equal dignity as persons demands that we strive for fairer and more humane conditions. Excessive economic and social disparity between individuals and peoples of the one human race is a source of scandal and militates against social justice, equity, human dignity, as well as social and international peace.” CCC 1938

Threats to the Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- ▶ Racial and Economic Injustice
 - ▶ The Plight of the Undocumented
 - ▶ The Death Penalty
 - ▶ A Pro-Abortion Culture
 - ▶ Embryo Experimentation
 - ▶ Euthanasia
 - ▶ Suicide
 - ▶ Murder
 - ▶ War
 - ▶ Genocide
 - ▶ Terrorism
 - ▶ Violence against Children
 - ▶ Human Trafficking
 - ▶ Gender Discrimination
 - ▶ Pornography
 - ▶ Absence of Total Concern for our Earth
- 

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Their companionship produces the primary form of interpersonal communion. For by his innermost nature man is a social being, and unless he relates himself to others he can neither live nor develop his potential.

The Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes), #12

The Family



- ▶ State of Life
- ▶ Marriage by free will
- ▶ Right to create a family
- ▶ Respect of human life
- ▶ Parents as primary educators
- ▶ Exist and progress as a family
- ▶ Freedom of domestic religious life
- ▶ Social and political function
- ▶ Right to an adequate standard of living
- ▶ The rights of migrants and refugees

The Person is not only Sacred, but also Social

▶ Society

“A society is a group of persons bound together organically by a principle of unity that goes beyond each one of them. As an assembly that is at once visible and spiritual, a society endures through time; it gathers up the past and prepares for the future. By means of society, each man is established as an “heir” and receives certain “talents” that enrich his identity and whose fruits he must develop. He rightly owes loyalty to the communities of which he is a part and respect to those in authority who have charge of the common good.”

CCC 1880

- ▶ Many different Societies
- ▶ For the benefit of People

The Common Good



“Do not live entirely isolated, having retreated into yourselves, as if you were already justified, but gather instead to see the common good together.”

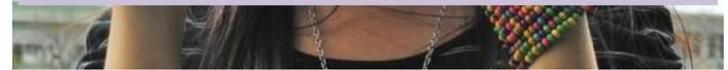
CCC 1905

- Respect for the person
- Social well-being and development
- Peace

Rights and Responsibilities

3. Rights and Responsibilities

Every person has a fundamental **right to life** and to the **necessities of life**. In addition, every human has the right to what is required **to live a full and decent life**, things such as employment, health care, and education.



“In effect the acknowledgment of the personal dignity of every human being demands *the respect, the defense and the promotion of the rights of the human person*. It is a question of inherent, universal and inviolable rights. No one, no individual, no group, no authority, no State, can change—let alone eliminate—them because such rights find their source in God himself.”

Christifideles Laici #38 Pope John Paul II

Basic Human Rights

- ▶ Moral and Cultural Rights
- ▶ Right to Worship God
- ▶ Right to Choose Freely One's State of Life
- ▶ Economic Rights
- ▶ The Right of Meeting and Association
- ▶ The Right to Emigrate and Immigrate
- ▶ Political Rights



The Right to Life

The Duty to take care of and preserve one's own life.

The Right to a decent standard of living.

A responsible lifestyle

The Right to seek out the truth.

The duty to search for truth.

The Right to Emigrate and Immigrate

The duty to abide by all immigration laws.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable



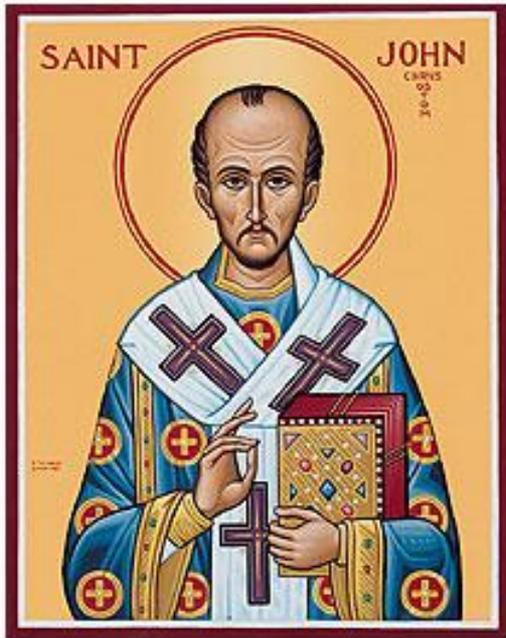
“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.”

Luke 35:35–36

“The demands of justice must be satisfied first of all; that which is already due in justice is not to be offered as a gift of charity.”

CCC #2446

Preferential Option for the Poor



“Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs.”

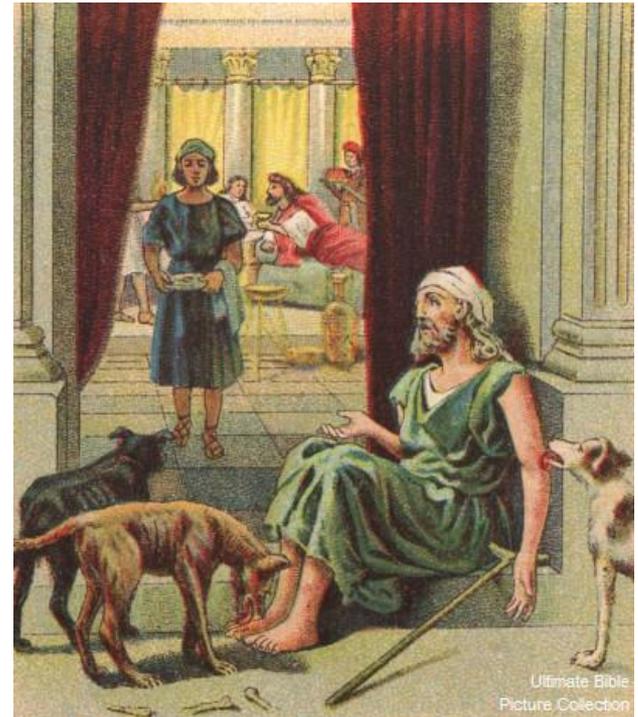
St. John Chrysostom

Economic Justice for ALL

- ▶ We must speak for those who have no one to speak for them, defend the defenseless.
 - ▶ Look at things from the side of the poor and powerless.
 - ▶ Assessments of societies structures.
 - ▶ Experience God's saving love and liberating power.
 - ▶ Empty ourselves as individual Christians and a Church community.
- 

“How can we not recognize Lazarus, the hungry beggar in the parable, in the multitude of human beings without bread, a roof or a place to stay? How can we fail to hear Jesus: ‘As you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me’”

CCC 2463



The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

“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 right of workers must be respected – the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative. Respecting these rights promotes an economy that protects human life, defends human rights, and advances the well-being of all.”

(Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions, USCCB)



Right to Productive Work

“When we were with you, we instructed you that if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat”. St. Paul

*“Unemployment almost always wounds its victim’s dignity and threatens the equilibrium of his life. Besides the harm done to him personally, it entails many risks to his family”.
CCC 2436*

Right to a Safe and Fair Workplace

“The dignity of workers requires adequate health care, security for old age or disability, unemployment compensation, healthful working conditions, weekly rest, periodic holidays for recreation and leisure, and reasonable security against arbitrary dismissal. The provisions are essential if workers are to be treated as persons rather than simply as a ‘factor of production’”.

Economic Justice for All #103

Right to Decent and Fair Wages

“In determining fair pay both the needs and the contributions of each person must be taken into account. ‘Remuneration for work should guarantee man the opportunity to provide a dignified livelihood for himself and his family on the material, social, cultural, and spiritual level, taking into account the role and productivity of each, the state of the business, and the common good.’”

CCC 2434

The Right to Organize and Join Unions

“Among the basic rights of the human person must be counted the right of freely founding labor unions. These unions should be truly able to represent the workers and to contribute to the proper arrangement of economic life. Another such right is that of taking part freely in the activity of unions without risk of reprisal.”

The Church in the Modern World #68

“No one may deny the right to organize without attacking human dignity itself. Therefore, we firmly oppose organized efforts...to break existing unions and prevent workers from organizing. We vehemently oppose violations of the freedom to associate, wherever they occur, for they are an intolerable attack on social solidarity.”

Economic Justice for All #104-105



“As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body so also Christ....But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored all the parts share its joy.”

1 Cor. 12:12, 24-26

WE ARE ALL PART OF GODS FAMILY.



WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE CAN TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AROUND THE WORLD.

- ▶ We are one human family.
- ▶ Our Brothers' and Sisters' keepers.
- ▶ Called to be Peacemakers.

Peace in the Modern World

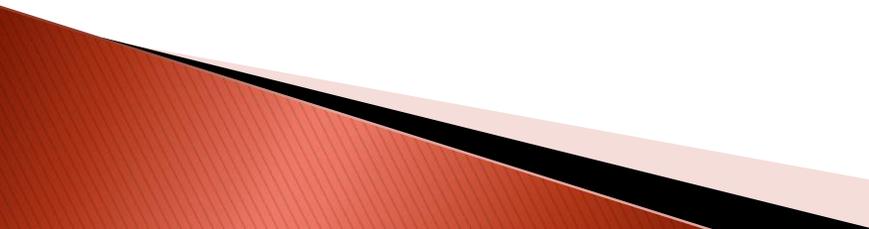
- ▶ Theology of Peace
- ▶ “Peace” in Hebrew Scripture
- ▶ “Peace” in Christian Scripture
- ▶ Defense against aggression

IF
YOU
WANT
PEACE,
WORK
FOR
JUSTICE

Catholic Teaching on War

- ▶ Just Cause
 - ▶ Competent Authority
 - ▶ Comparative Justice
 - ▶ Right Intention
 - ▶ Last Resort
 - ▶ Probability of Success
 - ▶ Proportionality
- 

Steps to Reduce the Danger of War

- ▶ Continued work on arms control, reduction, and disarmament.
 - ▶ Insistence on efforts to minimize the risk of any war.
 - ▶ Programs to reduce reliance on nuclear weapons and reduce tensions through diplomacy.
 - ▶ Attention to existing civil defense programs against nuclear attack.
 - ▶ Develop nonviolent means of conflict resolution.
 - ▶ Respect for the role of individual conscience and the rights of conscientious objectors.
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Care for the Environment



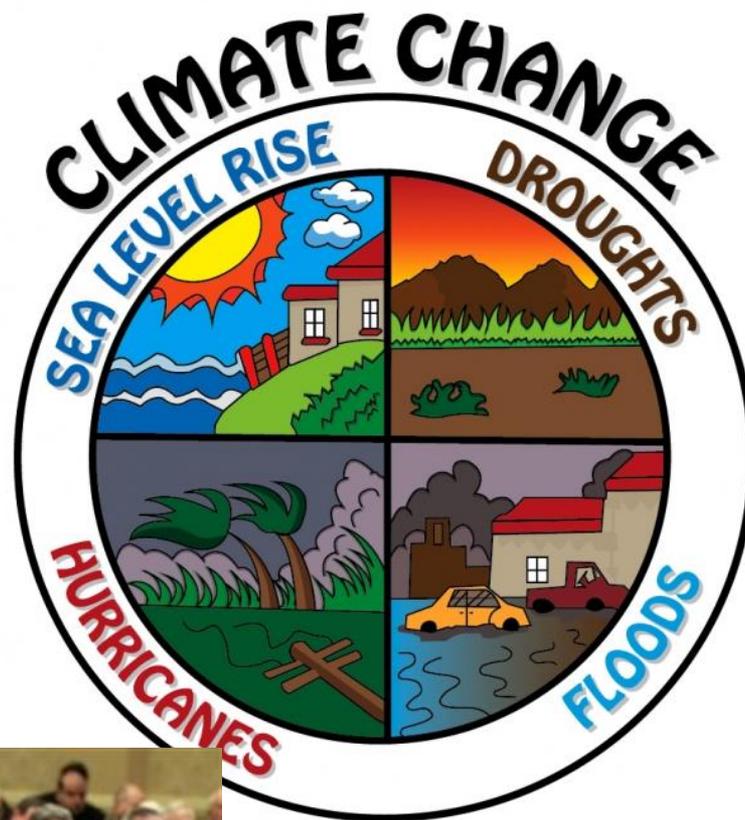
“In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth...God said, “Let the earth bring forth vegetation...Then God said, ‘Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky...’ Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion...God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.”

Genesis 1:1, 11, 20, 26, 31

Threats to God's Creation



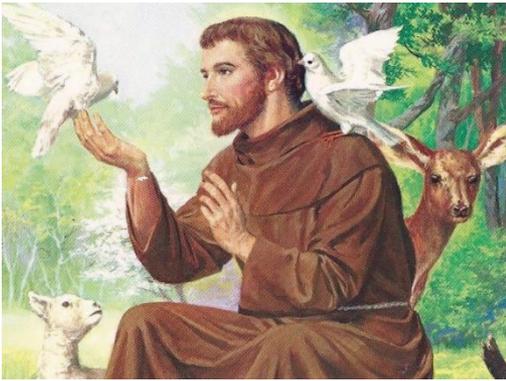
Global Warming





*“Much will be required of the person entrusted with much,
and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted
with more.”*

Luke 12:48



The Original Catholic Environmentalist



“This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. ‘This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she “groans in travail” (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth; our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.”



his is what God asks of you,
only this...

To act justly,
To love tenderly, and
To walk humbly
with your God.

micah 6:8



COMMUNITIES OF SALT AND LIGHT

REFLECTIONS ON THE SOCIAL
MISSION OF THE PARISH

*The biblical call to charity, justice and peace claims
not only each believer, but each community.*

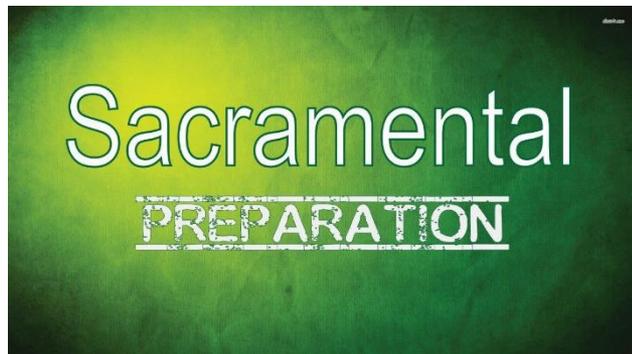
— COMMUNITIES OF SALT AND LIGHT

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

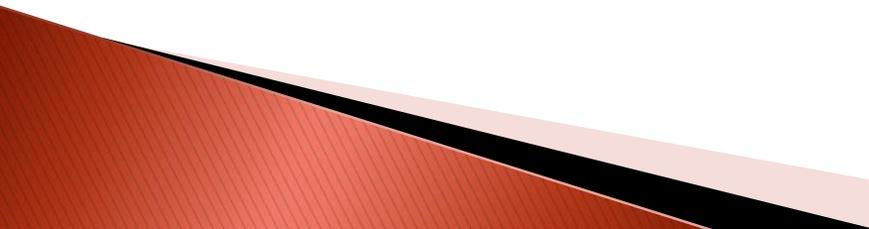
Anchoring Social Ministry: Prayer and Worship



Sharing the Message: Preaching and Education



Supporting the “Salt of the Earth”: Family, Work, Citizenship

- ▶ Building and sustaining Marriages.
 - ▶ Raising Families with Gospel values.
 - ▶ Being a Good Neighbor.
 - ▶ Becoming a Community of Evangelizers.
 - ▶ Christian Values and Virtues in the Marketplace.
 - ▶ Virtuous treatment of Co-Workers, Customers, and Competitors.
 - ▶ Integrity and Excellence.
 - ▶ Providing Leadership.
- 

Serving the “Least of These”: Outreach and Charity



Advocating for Justice: Legislative Action

- ▶ Informed and Active Citizens.
- ▶ Provide Forums for discussion and action.
- ▶ Talents and Democracy.
- ▶ The Voices of Parishioners.
- ▶ Values and Vision.



Creating Community: Organizing for Justice



“The future of humanity does not lie solely in the hands of great leaders, the great powers and the elites. It is fundamentally in the hands of peoples and in their ability to organize. It is in their hands, which can guide with humility and conviction this process of change. I am with you. Each of us, lets repeat from the heart: no family without lodging, no rural worker without land, no laborer without rights, no people without sovereignty, no individual without dignity, no child without childhood, no young person without a future, no elderly person without a venerable old age.”

Pope Francis, Address at the World Meeting of Popular Movements, Bolivia

Building Solidarity: Beyond Parish Boundaries



REFUGEE SUPPORT SERVICES



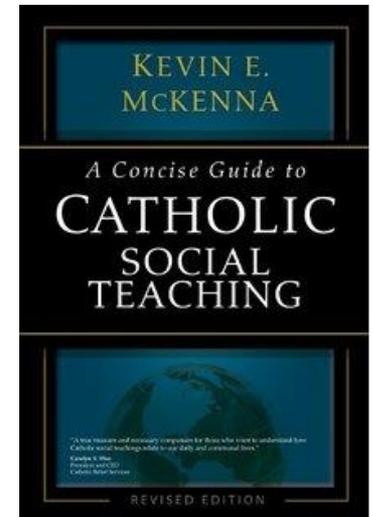
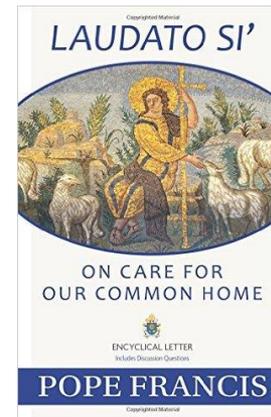
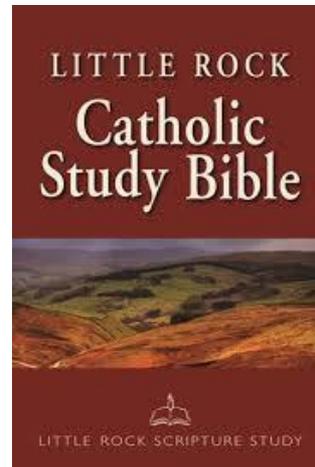
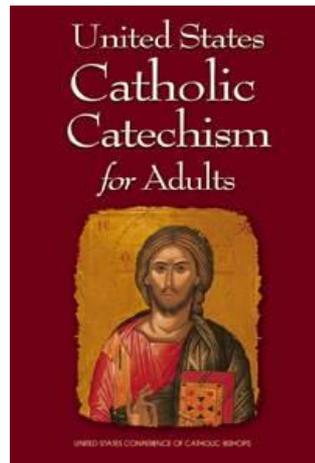
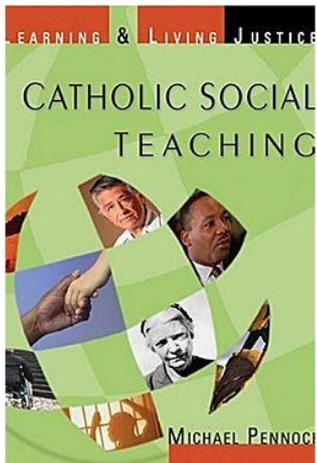
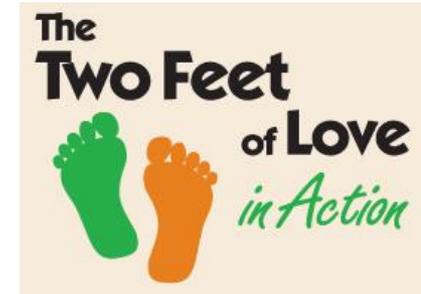
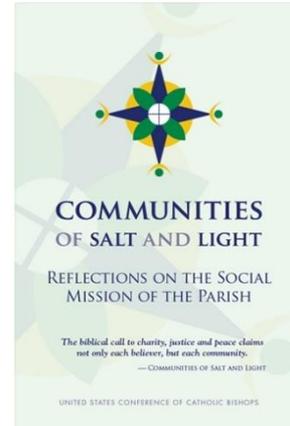
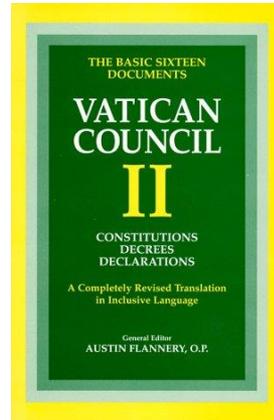
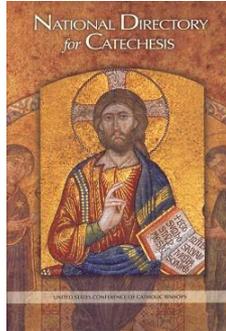
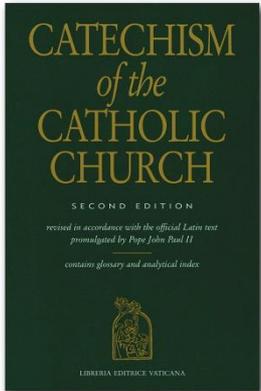
Lessons Learned

- ▶ Rooting Social Ministry in Faith.
 - ▶ Respecting Diversity.
 - ▶ Leadership: Pastors, Parish Staff, Councils, Committees, and Educators.
 - ▶ Links to Diocesan Structures.
 - ▶ Practicing what we Preach.
 - ▶ Some Difficulties and Dangers.
 - ▶ All are Called.
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Resources



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS



Websites

- ❖ United States Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org
- ❖ Catholic Charities, www.catholiccharitiesusa.org
- ❖ Catholic Relief Services, www.crs.org
- ❖ *JustFaith* Ministries, www.justfaith.org
- ❖ National Catholic Partnership on Disability, www.ncpd.org
- ❖ The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, www.svdpusa.org
- ❖ Faithful Citizenship, www.faithfulcitizenship.org
- ❖ Poverty USA, www.PovertyUSA.org
- ❖ Catholics Confront Global Poverty, www.confrontglobalpoverty.org
- ❖ Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, www.catholicandclimatechange.org
- ❖ Catholics Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty, www.catholicsmobilizing.org

Papal Encyclicals on Social Justice

- ▶ **Laudato Si'** – “On Care for our Common Home”, Pope Francis, 2015 – **Care of the Earth**
- ▶ **Evangelii Gaudium** – “The Joy of the Gospel”, Pope Francis, 2013 – **The Social dimension of Evangelization.**
- ▶ **Caritas in Veritate** – “Charity in Truth”, Pope Benedict XVI, 2009 – **Concerns over global poverty, injustice and the arms race.**
- ▶ **Evangelium Vitae** – “The Gospel of Life”, St. Pope John Paul II, 1995 – **Dignity and value of human life.**
- ▶ **Centesimus Annus** – “The One Hundredth Year”, St. Pope John Paul II, 1991 – **Excesses of capitalism: idolatry of the market.**
- ▶ **Sollicitudo Rei Socialis** – “The Social Concern of the Church”, St. Pope John Paul II, 1987 – **Structures of sin and option for the poor.**

- ▶ **Laborem Exercens** – “Through Work”, St. Pope John Paul II, 1981 – **Work that increases human dignity.**
- ▶ **Octogesims Adveniens** – “On the Eightieth Year”, Pope Paul VI, 1971 – **The Condition of Labor.**
- ▶ **Populorum Progressio** – “The Progress of Peoples”, Pope Paul VI, 1967 – **Danger of conflict in a world of inequality.**
- ▶ **Gaudium et Spes** – “The Joys and Hopes”, Vatican II, 1965 – **Need for the Church to be completely immersed in human affairs.**
- ▶ **Dignitatis Humanae** – “Human Dignity”, Vatican II, 1965 – **Respect for Religious freedom.**

- ▶ **Pacem in Terris – “Peace on Earth”, St. Pope John XXIII, 1963 – Rights and Responsibilities of individuals: condemns the arms race and racism.**
- ▶ **Mater et Magistra – “Mother and Teacher”, St. Pope John XXIII, 1961 – Need for a balance in state intervention: advocate for worker’s rights.**
- ▶ **Quadragesimo Anno – “On the Fortieth Year”, Pope Pius XI, 1931 – Condemns the dangers of fascism and communism: increase of child and female labor.**
- ▶ **Rerum Novarum – “Of New Things”, Pope Leo XIII, 1891 – Just wage theory: protect the rights of workers.**

Pastoral Letters & Statements on Social Justice

- ▶ *Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines* – USCCB, 2003
- ▶ *For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food: Catholic Reflections on Food, Farmers, and Farmworkers* – USCCB, 2003
- ▶ *A Place at the Table: A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to Respect the Dignity of All God's Children* – USCCB, 2002
- ▶ *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good* – USCCB, 2001
- ▶ *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response* – USCCB, 1893
- ▶ *Renewing the Earth: An Invitation to Reflection and Action on the Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching* – USCCB, 1991
- ▶ *Statement on Capital Punishment* – USCCB, 1980
- ▶ *Pastoral Letter of Racism: Brothers and Sisters to Us* – USCCB, 1979

Reflection Questions

1. What do you believe are the most serious contemporary threats to life and dignity of human beings?
 2. What are the challenges the family faces in today's world?
 3. What are three essential elements for the Common Good?
 4. Why is it so important to have a Preferential Option for the Poor?
 5. How would you define a "Just or Living Wage"?
 6. How would you describe being in "Solidarity" with the world?
 7. List five things you can do personally to help improve the environment.
 8. What steps could a parish take to increase awareness of life issues in the parish? The wider Community?
 9. What are some ways you can incorporate Catholic Social Teaching in your classroom?
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Diocese of Boise

Office of Religious Education and Catechetical Leadership



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Closing Prayer

We pray that we will transform economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural structures to better reflect the common good.

We pray that all will take up our baptismal task of working for a just ordering of society.

We pray for a commitment to charitable works on behalf of the poor and vulnerable.

We pray that our witness of faith will be evident through our love for widows, orphans, prisoners, and the sick.

We pray that the celebration of our Eucharist each Sunday will move us to compassionate concern and action.

We ask all these things through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.