

# Catholic Social Teaching

The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops has identified seven tenants of Catholic Social Teaching which permeate through our Catholic schools and their mission and beliefs. These tenants provide a foundation for living, sharing and modeling lives of holiness, compassion and generosity in a world which exhibits and perpetuates selfishness, materialism and immorality. Catholic Social Teaching proposes a guideline rooted in its history and writings. As educators, as guidance counselors, we are called to a higher standard in articulating the teachings of the Jesus Christ and offering consolation, support and dignity to our students and school communities.

## Seven Tenants of Catholic Social Teaching:

### **Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

The Catholic Church categorically identifies human life as sacred and defines as foundational the dignity of the human being in a moral society.

### **Call to Family, Community, and Participation**

Individuals are not only sacred but social beings as well. As our society develops laws, politics and economics, these directly affect our ability to grow and prosper in communal living. All individuals have a right and responsibility to live in and support a society which sustains and cares for those who are poor and vulnerable. The Church recognizes the family as the center of society and fosters its support rather than its disintegration.

### **Rights and Responsibilities**

Our Catholic tradition requires that each person has the responsibility to protect the human dignity and the human right. This mandate encompasses the security of the right to life and a right to human decency. This includes mutual respect and responsibility to each other, to families and to society at large.

### **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

Care of the poor and vulnerable is a measurement of society's moral strength. The Church reminds us of 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 premise of a strong society is the requirement of the economy to serve people. The right to productive work must be protected as a way for the individual to contribute to Our Lord's creation. The dignity of work must be protected as it in turn protects the right of the worker. This includes the right to a fair wage, private property and enterprise.

### **Solidarity**

The Church teaches that we are one family – no matter the racial, ethnic, economic, and philosophical differences. “Loving our neighbor has implications of global proportions.

### **Care for God's Creation**

Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan; is a requirement of our faith. We have a far reaching moral and ethical responsibility to protect people, the environment and all living things.

