

CST (CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING)



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OUR LADY'S
ABINGTON

- Dignity
- Peace
- The Common Good
- Solidarity
- The Dignity of Work and Participation
- Preferential Treatment for the Poor
- Creation and Environment



DIGNITY



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Catholics believe that every human person is made in the image and likeness of God.

God is present in every human person, regardless of religion, culture, nationality, orientation or economic standing. Each one of us is unique and loved.

We are called to treat every person with loving respect.

“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.”

Jeremiah 1:5

PEACE



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Peace is a cornerstone of the Catholic faith. Jesus, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9: 5-9), sacrificed himself with love to restore peace on earth. The importance of peace is reflected in Mass. Just before the exchange of peace that precedes communion, the priest says:

“Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles:

‘Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.’”

**“Peace... is an order that is founded in truth,
nurtured and animated by charity, and brought
into effect under the auspices of freedom.”**

Pacem in Terris, 1963, #167

THE COMMON GOOD



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The common good means that the earth belongs to everyone. No one should be excluded from the gifts of creation. Pope Paul VI spoke about this 50 years ago in his encyclical *Populorum Progressio*.

“You are not making a gift of your possessions to the poor person. You are handing over to them what is theirs.”

Saint Ambrose (340-397 AD)

SOLIDARITY



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Solidarity arises when we remember that we belong to each other. Catholics reflect on the sense of community in a special way at Mass. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, *'The Eucharist commits us to the poor. To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognise Christ in the poorest.'*

“In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers [or sisters] of mine, you did it to me.”

Matthew 25:40

THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND PARTICIPATION



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The Catholic Church has always upheld the dignity of work and participation. People should always come before the pursuit of financial gain. Workers have the right to join trade unions, to a just wage, to spend time with their families and to rest. Work is an essential part of our human dignity, and everyone has the right to participate.

“A small number of very rich men have been able to lay upon the teeming masses of the laboring poor a yoke little better than that of slavery itself.”

Rerum Novarum, 1891, #3

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR THE POOR



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The option for the poor reminds Catholics of God's preferential love for the poorest and most vulnerable people in society. God's love is universal; he does not side with oppressors, but loves the humble.

“The spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me... to let the oppressed go free.”

Luke 4:18

CREATION AND ENVIRONMENT



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In the first pages of the Bible, we read how God created the sun and the stars, the water and earth, and every creature. Catholics believe that the creation stories make it clear that humans have a duty to care for the earth. This duty is known as stewardship.

When reading the first story of Creation, Catholics recognise that it is a story about how God reveals his love, not a scientific account.

**“Who turned the wonderworld of the seas into
underwater cemeteries bereft of colour and life?”**

Catholic Bishops of the Philippines, 1988