

Catholic Social Teaching

Living it in Our Daily Lives

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A Key to Catholic Identity

Our Best Kept Secret

What is Catholic Social Teaching?

Body of Work ...

**Over 100 Years of Writing, Reflections
and Lived Experience**

No Defined Teaching

Set of Principals and Themes

Catholic Social Teaching

- Biblical insights
- The tradition of the early writers of the Church
- Scholastic and Christian philosophies
- Theological reflection
- And the contemporary experience of the People of God struggling to live out faith in justice

Why learn about Catholic Social Teaching?

Our Faith is Profoundly Social

A Key to Catholic Identity

U.S. Bishops:

The central message is simple: our faith is profoundly social. We cannot be called truly “Catholic” unless we hear and heed the Church's call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace.

Communities of Salt and Light, U.S. Bishops, 1993

A Key to Catholic Identity

Just as the social teaching of the Church is integral to Catholic faith, the social justice dimensions of teaching are integral to Catholic education and catechesis. They are an essential part of Catholic identity and formation.

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If Catholic education and formation fail to communicate our social tradition, they are not fully Catholic.

Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions

U.S. Bishops, 1998

The Problem

Far too many Catholics are unfamiliar with the basic content of Catholic social teaching. More fundamentally, many Catholics do not adequately understand that the social mission of the Church is an essential part of Catholic faith.

This poses a serious challenge for all Catholics, since it weakens our capacity to be a Church that is true to the demands of the Gospel. We need to do more to share the social mission and message of our Church.

Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions

U.S. Bishops, 1998

How do we connect with CST?

Realize how it is connected to our daily lives.

Grow in our knowledge about the documents and themes.

Use this knowledge to grow spiritually.

Major Catholic Social Teaching Documents

1891	The Condition of Labor	Leo XIII
1931	The Reconstruction of Social Order	Pius XI
1961	Christianity & Social Progress	John XXIII
1963	Peace on Earth	John XXIII
1965	Church in the Modern World	Vatican II
1967	The Development of Peoples	Paul VI
1971	A Call to Action	Paul VI
1975	Evangelization in the Modern World	Paul VI
1979	Redeemer of Humanity	John Paul II
1981	On Human Work	John Paul II
1988	On Social Concern	John Paul II
1991	One Hundred Years	John Paul II
1995	The Gospel of Life	John Paul II

Other Catholic Social Teaching Documents

1971	Justice in the World	Synod of Bishops
1979	Brothers & Sisters to Us	NCCB
1983	The Challenge of Peace	NCCB
1986	Economic Justice for All	NCCB
1998	Sharing CST	NCCB
1998	CST and Catholic Education	NCCB

The Condition of Labor

Rerun Novarum

Encyclical Letter of Pope Leo XIII, 1891

Major Areas of Concern

- Care of the Poor
- Rights of Workers
- Role of Private Property
- Duties of Workers and Employers
- Return to Christian Morals
- Role of Public Authority

The Reconstruction of the Social Order

Quadragesimo Anno

Encyclical Letter of Pope Pius XI, 1931

Major Areas of Concern

- Role of the Church
- Responsible Ownership
- Labor and Capital
- Public Authority
- Just Social Order
- Capitalism and Socialism

Peace on Earth

Pacem in Terris

Encyclical Letter of Pope John XXIII, 1963

Major Areas of Concern

- Rights and Duties
- Role of Public Authorities
- Common Good
- Christian World Order
- International Relations
- Disarmament

The Church in the Modern World

Gaudium et Spes
Second Vatican Council, 1965

Major Areas of Concern

- Human Dignity
- Common Good
- “Signs of the Times”
- Public Responsibility
- Respect for Families
- Right of Culture
- Justice and Development
- Peace

Vatican II

This split between the faith which many profess and their daily lives deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age.

Long since, the Prophets of the Old Testament fought vehemently against this scandal and even more so did Jesus Christ Himself in the New Testament threaten it with grave punishments.

Vatican II's Ecclesiology

The Church is a sign and a safeguard of the dignity of the human person.

A religious organization whose purpose it is to help bring about the reign of God in history.

The social mission is “constitutive” not extra-curricular or optional.

On Human Work

Laborem Exercens

Encyclical of John Paul II, 1981

Major Areas of Concern

- Dignity of Work
- Capitalism and Socialism
- Property
- Unions
- Employment
- Spirituality of Work

One Hundred Years

Centesimus Annus
Encyclical of John Paul II, 1991

Major Areas of Concern

- Human Dignity
- Human Rights
- Justice
- Development
- Peace
- Economic Systems

Major Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

Link of Religious and Social Dimension

Human dignity

Love & Justice

Protection of the Poor & Vulnerable

Solidarity

Participation

Association

Subsidiarity

Dignity of work

Stewardship

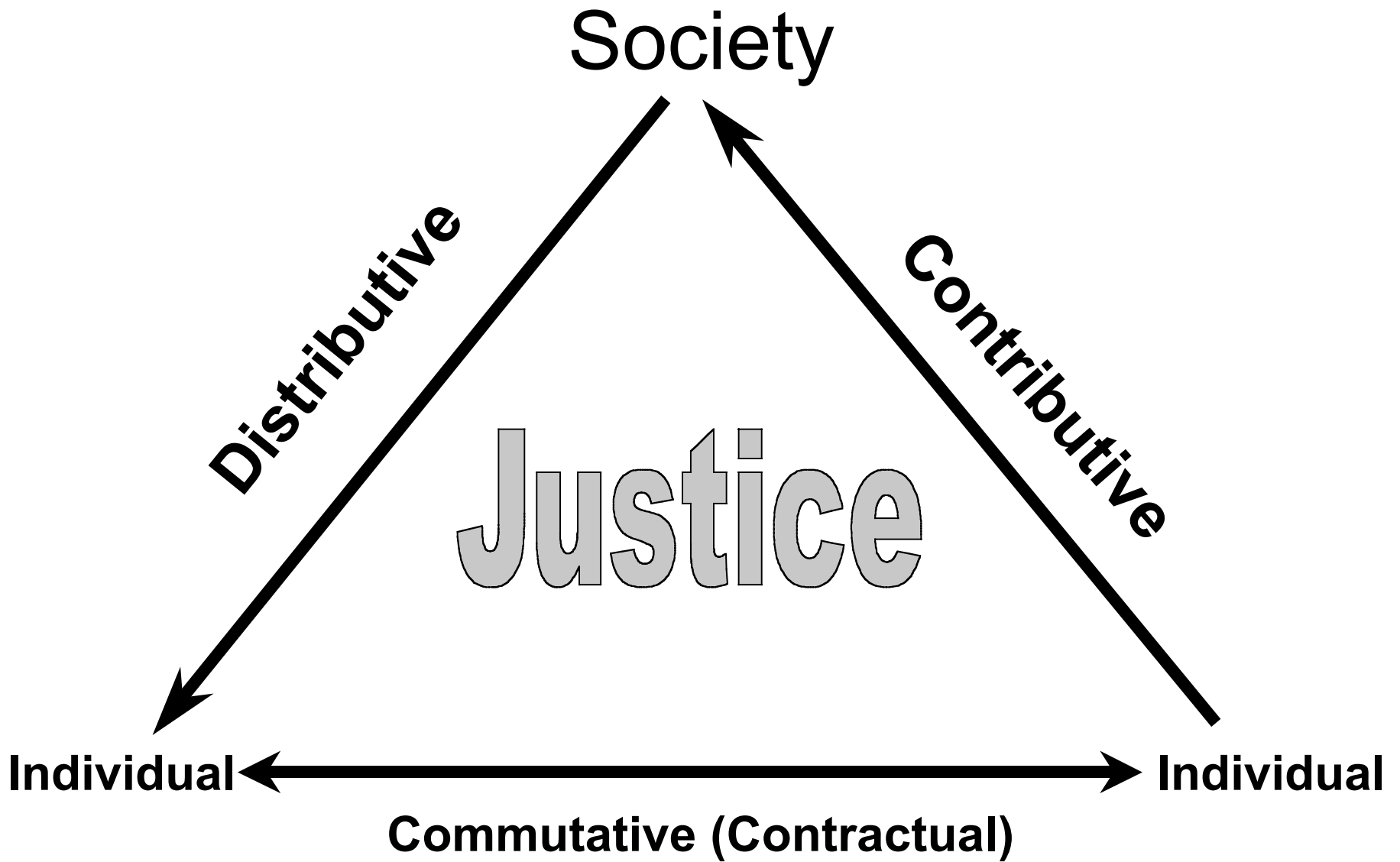
Promotion of Peace

Link of Religious and Social Dimensions of Life

"The “social” is not “secular” in the sense of being outside of God’s plan.

“Faith and justice are necessarily linked together.”
(Our Best Kept Secret)

The Church in the Modern World, One Hundred Years



Human Dignity

"Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family" *(Reflections)*.

Peace on Earth, On Human Work

Love & Justice

“Love of neighbor is an absolute demand for justice.”

“To promote justice is to transform structures which block love” (*Our Best Kept Secret*)

Justice in the World

Protection for the Poor & Vulnerable

"In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the last judgment (Mt. 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first." *(Reflections)*.

“Given special attention in God’s eye.” *(Our Best Kept Secret)*.

Call to Action

Solidarity

"Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family.... Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that 'loving our neighbor' has global dimensions in an interdependent world" *(Reflections)*.

The Development of People, The Social Concerns of the Church, One Hundred Years

Participation

"We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable" *(Reflections)*.

Applies to political and economic participation

The Missionary Activity of the Church, On Human Work

Association

“Our tradition proclaims that the person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society--in economics and politics, in law and policy--directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community" (*Reflections*).

Centerpiece of society is the family.

Peace on Earth

Subsidiarity

“This principle deals chiefly with "the responsibilities and limits of government, and the essential roles of voluntary associations" (*Reflections*).

As small as possible, as big as necessary.

The Reconstruction of the Social Order

Dignity of Work

Work has dignity because it is performed by the human person.

People are more important than things; labor is more important than capital.

The Condition of Labor, On Human Work

Stewardship

"The Catholic tradition insists that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation"
(Reflections).

The steward is a manager, not an owner.

On Human Work

Promotion of Peace

Peace is not just the absence of war.

“Peace is the fruit of justice”. *(Our Best Kept Secret)*.

Peace on Earth

Implications for Catholic Educators

Catholic schools, religious education and faith formation programs are vitally important for sharing the substance and values of the Catholic social justice heritage.

Just as the social teaching of the Church is integral to Catholic faith, the social justice dimensions of teaching are integral to Catholic education and catechesis. They are an essential part of Catholic identity and formation.

Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions
U.S. Bishops, 1998

Implications for US

Catholic Social Teaching must be integrated into our daily lives and not kept as a separate part.

Resources on Catholic Social Teaching

<http://www.osjspm.org/cst>

<http://www.shc.edu/theolibrary>

Catholic Social Teaching, Our Best Kept
Secret by Henriot, DeBerri & Schultheis,
1999