

BEING A PEOPLE OF COMPASSION.

Our Catholic faith and Biblical tradition extend an extraordinary invitation to each of our faith communities and each of us to become agents of God's compassion and healing in a wounded world.

The Good News of Christ is both a comfort and a promise to the poor and, at the same time, a call to those of us who are not poor to be linked with God's vision of justice and reconciliation.

God has made each of us with an appetite or an inclination to be connected with each other. When we talk about the work of social ministry or social action, essentially what we are talking about is

how we are about each other's care.

What we call social concern, social ministry, social action, social justice or social charity are expressions of what it means to be connected with each other and that is how we are made. We have a script in our cells crafted by God that says

"I am making you in a way that you will be most satisfied and most fulfilled when you are part of a community that takes very seriously its commonness and its solidarity."

SOCIAL ACTION CALLS US TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- The social mission of the parish, both within and outside its boundaries.
- The promotion and education on:
 - the biblical and social teachings on justice and peace.
 - the work of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
 - their Fall Action and Share Lent campaign activities.
 - issues and actions raised by the Archdiocesan Social Justice Commission.
- Local critical service projects (programs for the poor, the unemployed, the hungry and others in need.)
- Working with other community organizations to promote ecumenical social justice activities.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE:

Our Parish committee is a vibrant, committed group of people who study the Church's teachings on social justice and act upon them. We are inviting interested people to join our group.

Please contact the Parish Office for contact information.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY



“Charity calls for individuals to respond; social justice requires communal action.”

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INTRODUCTION:

Catholic Social Teaching is a precious treasure – unfortunately, one that is too often buried, a shining light too often kept “*under a bushel basket*” (Mt. 5:15)

Catholic Social Teaching is a distinct body of church doctrine with its own primary sources and literature. At the same time it is related

In a world threatened by attacks on human life, human dignity and creation itself, the Church’s social justice teachings offers hope.

In a world that has enormous human and technological resources at its disposal for human development. Catholic social teaching offers to humanity a direction and a social vision that mirrors the values of the reign of God that Jesus announced and embodied.

THEMES FROM CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS:

The church’s social teachings are a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society.

Modern Catholic social teachings have been presented through a tradition of papal, conciliar and episcopal documents.

Several key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social teachings are:

- 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.

To create a society with more just laws and social structures, we need prayerful people of moral integrity.

EXPLORING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS:

The roots of Catholic teaching are found in the Scriptures, but its branches continue to grow today. The body of social doctrine grew throughout the centuries as the

Church encountered new social situations.

The same Holy Spirit who inspired the Scriptures is with the Church as we “read the signs of the times” in each new culture and age.

In the words of the Catechism, “*the church’s social teachings comprises a body of doctrine, which is articulated as the Church interprets events in the course of history, with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, in the light of the whole or what has been revealed by Jesus Christ*”

The Catechism also says, “*The development of the doctrine of the Church on economic and social matters attests the permanent value of the Church’s teaching at the same time as it attests the true meaning of her Tradition, always living and active.*”

The rapid pace of social and technological change has called the Church to respond with courage and creativity. Popes, the second Vatican Council, bishops’ conferences and individual bishops have all contributed to this body of teaching. Committed clergy, religious, and lay people have helped shape the social justice tradition through their witness in the world.