



Dignity of the Human Person

Each person is made 'in the image and likeness of God.' Thus it follows that 'every person's life and dignity must be respected and supported from conception until the end of their natural life on earth.'

Caritas in Action



Family and Community

‘the family, in which the various generations come together and help one another grow wiser and harmonise personal rights with the other requirements of social life, is the foundation of society.’

Gaudium et Spes



Solidarity and the Common Good

Promoting the common good cannot be pursued by treating each individual separately and looking for the highest 'total benefit', in some kind of utilitarian addition.

Because we are interdependent, the common good is more like a multiplication sum, where if any one number is zero then the total is always zero.

If anyone is left out and deprived of what is essential, then the common good has been betrayed.

Choosing the Common Good



Rights and Responsibilities

Man has the right to live. He has the right to bodily integrity and to the means necessary for the proper development of life, particularly food, clothing, shelter, medical care, rest and finally the necessary social services. In consequence, he has the right to be looked after in the event of ill health; disability stemming from his work; widowhood; old age; enforced unemployment; or whenever through no fault of his own he is deprived of the means of livelihood.'

Pacem in Terris



Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

‘The Church's love for the poor ... is a part of her constant tradition.’ This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor. Love for the poor is even one of the motives for the duty of working so as to ‘be able to give to those in need.’ It extends not only to material poverty but also to the many forms of cultural and religious poverty.

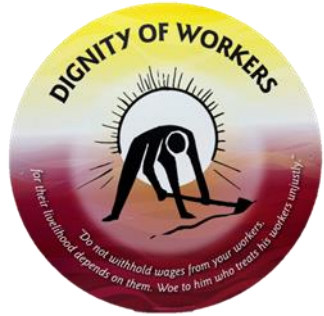
CCC 2447



Stewardship of God's Creation

We are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone. Hence every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged.

Laudato Si



The Dignity of Work

For the Church work is seen as a continuance of the gift of Creation whereby we are 'co-creators of Gods world and work is part of our contribution.'

Work is also seen as something which brings dignity to the human person as it is the means 'of providing for his life and that of his family, and of serving the human community.'

Dignity of Work: Catholic Social Teaching
CCC 2428