Catholic Social Teaching

The Church’s social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. In “Love Thy Neighbor,” we highlight themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

Love Thy Neighbor

Dignity of the Human Person (Social Justice Ministry / Human Concerns)

Loving God and neighbor in ways that bear fruit in the life of society.

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Catholic Social Teaching: SOLIDARITY

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

Why is “Fortnight for Freedom” Important?

The “Fortnight for Freedom” takes place in Dioceses across the United States of America every year. This year’s Fortnight begins on June 21st and continues until July 4th, when the nation celebrates Independence Day. Our theme for 2015 is “The Freedom to Bear Witness” to the truth of the Gospel.

Why is this issue of religious freedom important? Let’s look at the issue through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching, specifically in regard to the principle of Solidarity.

John Garvey, J.D., President of The Catholic University of America, invites us to consider the plight of Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq. He writes:

“On June 10, 2014, the extremist group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) seized the city of Mosul. ISIS offered Christians in the city a stark choice: convert, pay a tax, or face the sword. The doors of Christian homes and businesses were marked with the Arabic letter “N” for Nasrani (the Arabic word for “Christian”). ISIS seized properties from the Chaldean Catholic Church and replaced crosses on the Syrian Orthodox Cathedral with black flags. By July 18, 2014 – just 39 days later – the deadline ISIS gave Christians to convert or pay the tax – the city was emptied of Christians for the first time in 1,600 years.

Christian and Yazidi women have been raped, enslaved, and forced into marriage by ISIS extremists. Christians who fled were stripped of their property, and holy sites, such as the tomb of Jonah, have been destroyed. Nuns and children have been abducted by ISIS soldiers. There are reports – and graphic images – of summary executions.

These brutal violations of religious liberty challenge us to consider why we believe religious liberty is important, and how we can defend it conceptually and practically.

We believe that Christians and Yazidis, Sunni and Shia Muslims, Kaka’i and Baha’is, all have a right to freedom from coercion in matters of faith and the right not to be hindered in the practice of their religion. This idea is expressed in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. It is found in article 18 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and it is repeated in article 10 of the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights. These articles and declarations suggest that we think religion is an especially good or important thing.”

This fortnight is significant for the Catholic Church, as it incorporates the feast day of figures such as Saints Peter and Paul, as well as Saints John Fisher and Thomas More. These two English Saints were martyred for the faith in the face of tremendous political pressure and persecution during the English Reformation. Saint Thomas More’s last words, “I die the King’s loyal servant, but God’s first,” have continued to resonate for Catholics throughout the centuries.

To highlight the importance of promoting religious liberty, Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki will celebrate a closing Mass at 5 pm on Saturday, July 4, 2015 at St. Alphonsus Parish, 6000 W. Loomis Rd, Greendale, WI 53129. All are invited to pray for the protection of religious liberty here and abroad.
One of the things I enjoy about summer is going to the movies. Much to my wife’s chagrin, I enjoy comic book movies, science fiction, and animated movies. (Great resource http://www.catholicnews.com/movies.htm, by the way). Needless to say, I also enjoy the movie trailers. In this spirit of letting you know of what will be “Coming Soon,” I offer the perfect trailer:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has

anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.”

Luke 4:18

You are going to hear this scripture often, not only because we will start reading from the Gospel of Luke in Advent, but also because Pope Francis has announced an “Extraordinary Holy Year, a Jubilee of Mercy” starting December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 2015.

Luke 4:18 is also the scripture passage that accompanies anything you see from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development or CCHD. CCHD is one of the ways the Church seeks to help the poor and to end oppression in our society.

CCHD’s particular charism is to address what are called “upstream” problems. Some Church ministries help address the direct, immediate needs of people, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, but we also need to address the questions of why do people hunger, why do they need shelter? Ideally, CCHD programs help people to help themselves.

One way CCHD has helped people help themselves is through the financial support of a national CCHD grant to the Dominican Center for Women at 2470 W. Locust Street in Milwaukee. CCHD assisted the Dominican Center and the surrounding neighbors start a neighborhood association, which organized block watches and neighborhood cleanups. These efforts have corresponded with a substantial reduction of crime in the area. In addition to national CCHD grants, four local CCHD grants were awarded in June 2015 to support these groups:

- Casa Romero’s IGNITE program empowers Milwaukee’s Catholic Hispanic teen community
- Layton Boulevard West Neighbors trains community leaders to enhance safety, social engagement, and neighborhood pride
- Southside Organizing Committee develops local leaders to put at the forefront of community development efforts
- Ezekiel Community Development Corp builds community wealth through new home ownership of low cost rehab homes, on-the-job training, and growth of small, minority-owned businesses

Yes, I like movies with happy endings where the good triumphs over evil. I realize that life is not always like that, but there are these beautiful glimmers of the Kingdom. CCHD is one of the ways that we follow Jesus’ example of bringing good news to the poor.

Bishop Hying Returns to Milwaukee for Forum on Faith & Work

The Saint Clare Center for Catholic Life at Cardinal Stritch University is proud to welcome Bishop Donald Hying for a speaking engagement in Milwaukee in September. This educational forum is titled:

Called, Formed, Sent: The Faith-Work of Lay People

All the baptized, not just priests and sisters, are called to a life of discipleship, of holiness, of sharing in the faith and the work of the Church. Bishop Hying will discuss specific ways that Catholics can form themselves in deeper discipleship, and how we are sent out into the world to love and to serve.

This presentation is part of the “Forums on Faith and Work,” a breakfast speaker series designed to explore Gospel values with members of the business community.

The gathering will take place on Friday, September 18, 2015 at the Italian Community Center, 631 E. Chicago Street, Milwaukee.

Fee is $25 per person (which includes plated breakfast). Program begins at 7:15 a.m.

Contact Mary Foley at 414-410-4405 for more information. To register in advance and pay for your ticket online, go to:

https://commerce.cashnet.com/cashnet/selfserve/EditItem.aspx?PC=EVT-FFW0918&ItemCount=1

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY
DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016

"IT WILL BE A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY."
-Pope Francis
Creating Positive Change for Tomorrow’s Future

In 2005, Walkin’ In My Shoes developed a street based program to assist the homeless. From the ground up they learned that people at risk who needed a hand up and a way to get back on their feet would benefit from a program that specialized on empowering their clients.

They came up with a self-help solution to help people break the cycle of poverty without micromanaging people’s lives. They bypassed limitations to teach their clients to become less dependent on governmental assistance programs to meet their basic needs.

If their clients were willing and able-bodied, and would agree to take ownership of their own lives as it relates to helping themselves, Walkin’ In My Shoes would show them how to become self-reliant. They built a community network of private and nonprofit businesses to obtain housing, employment opportunities, continuing education options, healthcare, and other services to support their clients as they became independent. Ten years later, they have helped over 5,000 individuals and families who are now self sufficient.

They continue to serve the homeless population in Kenosha and seek assistance to continue providing their wide array of services, especially to homeless youth. Wish list items are in great need. Learn more from: Walkin’ In My Shoes 2211 50th Street Kenosha, WI 53140 www.walkininmyshoes.org

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee recently awarded Walkin’ In My Shoes $2,500 for their ministry from the local Rice Bowl alms. (See below.)

What’s Your Ecological Footprint?

The morning alarm rings. You take a hot shower, brew up a cup of coffee, get dressed, read a bit from the morning newspaper, check your cell, and hop in the car to get to work.

Routine, right? But have you stopped recently to consider the environmental impact involved in your basic daily habits?

An ecological footprint (EF) is one assessment tool to answer the question of how our lifestyle effects the planet by estimating how much of Earth’s productive land and sea is used to produce the food, materials and energy that we consume, and to assimilate our wastes. An EF looks behind the scenes to see what it takes to make an alarm clock, a cup of coffee, clothes, a cell phone, or to operate a car.

As an example, let’s take a deeper look at that morning cup of coffee. Land is needed to grow the coffee beans, for the processing and distributing operations, to house corporate management and advertisers as well as the store. Additional forest land is needed to absorb the CO2 resulting from all the energy burned harvesting, processing and shipping the coffee, plus energy is used to brew the coffee at home.

Did you know the average EF in the United States is 24 acres per person compared to the world average of 5.6 acres? The Earth is ecologically filled, meaning that everything we use is detracting from what another person has to nourish their lifestyle.

With Catholic Social Teaching principles of Solidarity and Care for Creation in mind, we invite you to read Pope Francis’ encyclical, “Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home” and his invitation to “live our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork.” (Para #217)

Step into the role of a global citizen coexisting with a bio diverse planet! What can you, your parish, or school do to reduce your EF?

On behalf of Catholic Relief Services, we wish to thank all the parishes, schools, groups, and individuals who chose to support CRS Rice Bowl’s 40th Anniversary. To date, more than $100,525 has been raised. CRS receives 75% of all alms to support their international programs. The remaining 25% stays in our diocese to assist individuals who live in poverty.

Many parishes self-designate the 25% funds to their parish food pantry or local SVDP society. Additional recipients of the 25% include:

Catholic Charities (Bus passes for Outreach clients)

Central WI Community Action Council (Dodge County)

Family Service of Racine
Hope Now, Inc.

Milwaukee Careers Cooperative (Bus passes)

Salvation Army
South Shore Meal Program

Walkin’ In My Shoes, Inc.

Food Pantries in Adell, Butler, Fontana, Hartford, Kenosha, Kewaskum, Lake Geneva, Milwaukee, Mukwonago, North Lake, Pell Lake, Plymouth, Racine, Ripon, Sheboygan, Slinger, South Milwaukee, West Allis and West Bend

It’s not too late to send your Lenten Rice bowl alms. Contact Kathy if you need the 25% Designation Form at 414-758-2285 or shinek@archmil.org.
Loving God and neighbor in ways that bear fruit in the life of society.

Dignity of the Human Person

Office Location:
Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center
3501 South Lake Drive
St. Francis, WI 53235

Mailing Address:
Dignity of the Human Person
P.O. Box 070912
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

For more information about upcoming events or volunteer opportunities, contact:

Robert Shelledy
Director, Dignity of the Human Person
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
(414) 758-2286
shelledyr@archmil.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4
Fortnight for Freedom, 5:00 pm Mass with Archbishop Listecki
St. Alphonsus Parish, 6000 W. Loomis Road, Greendale, WI 53129

July 11
Walkin’ In My Shoes’ 10th Anniversary & Open House
2211 50th Street, Kenosha, WI 53140

July 19-23
Social Action Summer Institute, Portland, OR
“Cherishing Creation: Called to the Common Good: Life, Earth, and the Common Good”

September
Shipment of Respect Life Packets sent to all Pastors from USCCB

September 18
Bishop Hying presents Called, Formed, Sent: The Faith-Work of Lay People
Italian Community Center, 631 E. Chicago Street, Milwaukee

September 20
Catechetical Sunday
Theme: Safeguarding the Dignity of Every Human Person

September 24
Pope Francis Address to US Congress

October 4
Respect Life Sunday

October 10
Living the Fundamental Vision of the Gospel with Tom Thibodeau
Holy Family Parish, 271 Fourth Street Way, Fond du Lac, WI 54937

October 17
Soles for Catholic Education Walk
Mount Mary University
2900 N. Menomonee River Parkway, Milwaukee, WI 53222

November 10
Brother Booker Ashe Urban Ministry Seminar, 6:00 – 8:30 pm
Theme: Reverencing Creation: Prophetic Voices for Human Dignity
Cardinal Stritch University, Klieban Conference Center
6801 N. Yates Road, Milwaukee, WI 53217

November 11 – 13
National Convening on Immigration in Chicago, IL
Keynote: Archbishop Blase Cupich, Archdiocese of Chicago

“I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works.”
Psalm 145:5

Jesus, help us to value and practice being, listening, pondering, and caring.

New Respect Life Packets

Our office has ordered one Respect Life Parish Kit for every parish in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Each kit will be sent to the pastor. Shipment is expected in the early month of September from USCCB’s Pro-Life office. Additional posters and materials may be ordered by parishes directly from USCCB.