



Catholic Social Teaching Key Issues and Key Questions

Cultural Realities

- We see increasing violence due to social inequities, broken families, and unjust laws
- We see increasing moral relativism, secularism, materialism, and individualism
- We see multiple examples of the gross violation of human liberties and dignity
- The culture has caused many people to have an emotional and superficial faith

Reflection Question: Given these strong cultural influences, how can we more boldly influence our culture with the teachings of Jesus expressed through Catholic Social Teaching?

Theological Foundations

- As Christians we are called to “put on Christ” and carry on His mission “to bring glad tidings to the poor...to proclaim liberty to captives...to let the oppressed go free”(Lk. 4)
- Human dignity is the non-negotiable foundation for human development and society
- We are called to protect, defend, and foster the values of truth, freedom, and justice
- We live the Church’s Social Doctrine by practicing these principles: Common Good, the Universal Destination of Goods, Subsidiarity, Participation, and Solidarity

Reflection Question: How can we more fully put on Christ so that we tirelessly protect, defend, and foster human dignity from conception until natural death?

Other Issues and Challenges

- Some current social issues to be considered are health care, war, immigration, racism, poverty, globalization, capital punishment, mass media, workplace justice, and the environment
- Catholic Social Teaching is a “secret” to most Catholics and remains a “secret” if we do not put it into practice

Reflection Question: Given the scope and urgency of the many current social issues, how can we further educate Catholics about Catholic Social Teaching so they can put it into practice?

Small Group Task: Key Initiatives, Quick Hits, Innovative Ideas

In light of the key issues and questions articulated above, identify how to strengthen the mission of the Church in the area of **Catholic Social Teaching** through:

- **2-3 Key Initiatives**
- **1-2 Quick Hits**
- **2-3 Innovative Ideas**