

Catholic Social Teaching Principles

OPTION FOR THE POOR

In every economic, political and social decision, a weighted concern must be given to the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. When we do this, we strengthen the entire community, because the powerlessness of any one person wounds all of society.

SACREDNESS AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Created in the image of God, all human life is sacred and possesses a dignity from our creation not from any action of our own.

CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

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.

THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation.

SOLIDARITY

We are all part of one human family—whatever our national, racial, religious, economic or ideological differences. In an increasingly interconnected world, loving our neighbors has global dimensions.

CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

There is inherent integrity to all of creation and it requires careful stewardship of all our resources, ensuring that we use and distribute them justly and equitably—as well as planning for future generations.