

PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

We believe that people are more important than things and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community and Participation

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.

Rights and Responsibilities

Human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

In a society marred by deepening division between rich and poor, we are instructed to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

Economic Justice

If the dignity of work is to be protected then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to produce work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Global Solidarity

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences.

Care for God's Creation

We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationships with all of God's creations.

PEACE AND JUSTICE STAFF

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The Office for
Peace and Justice

Our Faith
Seeks
Social Justice

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Our Programs

Since 1979 the Office for Peace and Justice has carried out the Gospel call to love God, our neighbors and all of God's creation. Jesus calls us to be Christian witnesses by acting upon our faith to promote social justice.

Through its many programs and initiatives, the Office for Peace and Justice provides Catholics with a variety of opportunities to live out God's call for all people to support justice and peace throughout the world.

This office assists Catholics in knowing their faith and addresses issues of poverty, faithful citizenship, human rights, domestic policy, international development, peace and care for Creation. In promoting respect for human life and dignity, the office works through five main programs: Justice Education, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Relief Services, Domestic Violence and Parish Sharing.

In addition this office resources other agencies regarding the Social Doctrine of the Church.

Catholic Relief Services

CRS was founded in 1943 by the U.S. Catholic Bishops to assist the poor and disadvantaged outside of the U.S. CRS works to build global solidarity in the U.S. and alleviate human suffering around the world. CRS is active in over 100 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. CRS responds to emergencies like famine and war and assists with community-driven, economic development projects abroad. The Archdiocese of Chicago recently embarked on a Global Solidarity Partnership with the Diocese of Mongu, Zambia. The Partnership program provides an opportunity for a relationship between dioceses that are mutually transforming and that promote justice and peace.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

"Whatever you did to one of these, the least of my people, that you did unto me." (Matthew 25:40)

The mission of CCHD since 1970, has been to address the root causes of poverty through education and through supporting social justice causes as they adhere to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Catholic Social Teaching impels us to practice God's love for humanity.

As an instrument of evangelization, CCHD places the value of the human person and society in relationship with the light of the Gospel. CCHD has supported programs that focus on economic development in low-income communities by addressing some of the issues that perpetuate poverty. CCHD is continually seeking for more avenues to break cycles of poverty that have yet to be addressed, mirroring The Social Doctrine of the Church.

CCHD funds come from parishes that participate in the CCHD annual collection, taken on the third weekend in November each year.

Parish Sharing

Parish Sharing embodies the spirit of the earliest Christian communities by providing a means for Catholics of the Archdiocese of Chicago to share their gifts of time, talent and treasure. Parishes are linked to one another across economic, racial, ethnic, and geographic lines for the purpose of building relationships and enriching the faith lives of individuals and communities. For almost 40 years, Parish Sharing has

resulted in real and positive changes in peoples' lives.

Domestic Violence Committee

The DVC is a committee based on Catholic Social Teaching with the intent to encourage religious leaders and congregations to improve their skills in understanding and responding to domestic abuse. The DVC strives to promote justice and to cultivate trust by fostering a culture of respect and empowerment for victims by building a skilled support network comprised of faith leaders and parishioners. DVC works to increase understanding of the concerns voiced by victims and to respond to those concerns in a way that reflects Catholic social values.

Justice Education & Advocacy

The OPJ offers a variety of educational materials and presentations to Catholic parishes, schools and institutions. Additionally, the Office promotes advocacy efforts to assist the poor and vulnerable in the Chicago area, the US and throughout the world. The OPJ is actively engaged in a number of issues including health care access, war and anti-violence, affordable housing, politics, voting and legislative issues.

How to Get Involved

The Office for Peace and Justice holds the mandate from Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. To coordinate Archdiocesan advocacy and ministry regarding the Social Teachings of the Church.

For more information about our programs or to become involved please contact the program director of the program you are interested in or visit our website at www.archchicago.org/PeaceandJustice.