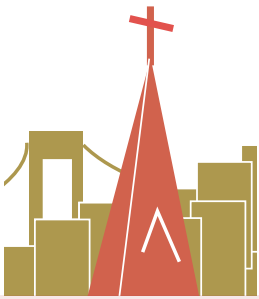




## Living the Gospel - Catholic Social Teaching: St. Charles 2018 September 30-November 11



On Sunday, November 18, the Church will observe the second annual World Day of the Poor, a special day of prayer, reflection and action focused on those most in need. With this in mind, St. Charles has prepared a series of homilies, beginning on Sunday, September 30, designed to help reacquaint us with the seven themes of Catholic social teaching and examine ways in which these core pillars can help us turn our faith into action. Join us on a seven-week journey to deepen our faith and renew our commitment to living the Gospel!

**September 30**  
What is the origin of  
Catholic Social Teaching

- *Jewish Scripture - First five books - prophets*
- *Gospel - Ministry of Jesus*
- *First Church - community of saints*
- *Early Fathers of the Church*

**October 7**  
Created in the Image  
and Likeness of God

- *Inherent Human Dignity of every person*
- *Called to live in Community*

**October 14**  
More than Community

*Our interrelatedness and our interdependence*

**October 21**  
Importance of Family

*Family at the heart of our interconnectedness as local,  
national and international community*

**October 28**  
Called to be Actors  
versus Observers

*See, Judge, Act*

**November 4**  
Rights and Responsibilities

*Securing life and decent living conditions for ourselves, our families,  
each other, and to society as whole*

**November 11**  
Preparing for Second  
World Day of the Poor

*St. Charles Action Plan for Second World Day of the Poor (November 18)*

# 7 THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

## The Catholic Spirit

Catholic Social Teaching is central to our faith, and is based on – and inseparable from – our understanding of human life and dignity. These teachings are derived from the Gospels and the words of Christ; papal statements and encyclicals; and Catholic bishops' statements and pastoral letters. Catholic social teaching calls us all to work for the common good, help build a just society, uphold the dignity of human life, and lift up our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters.

*The following describe the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching*

### **1. LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON**

Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, every person's life and dignity must be respected and supported from conception through natural death. We believe that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

### **2. CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION**

The human person is not only sacred, but social. How we organize our society – socially, economically, legally and politically – directly affects human dignity and the ability of every human person to grow in community. Marriage and family, the foundations for social life, should be strengthened and supported. Every person has a right to participate in society and a corresponding duty to work for the advancement of the common good and the well-being of all.

### **3. SOLIDARITY**

We are one human family. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Our love for all of our brothers and sisters calls us to seek a peaceful and just society where goods are distributed fairly, opportunity is promoted equally and the dignity of all is respected.

### **4. DIGNITY OF WORK**

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. To uphold the dignity of work, the basic rights of workers must be respected – the right to productive work, to fair and livable wages, and to organize and join a union.

### **5. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Every person has a fundamental right to life – the right that makes all other rights possible. Each person also has a right to the conditions for living a decent life – food, health care, housing, education and employment. We have a corresponding duty to secure and respect these rights for others and to fulfill our responsibilities to our families, to each other and to our larger society.

### **6. OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE**

Scripture teaches that God has a special concern for the poor and vulnerable. The church calls on all of us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. This preferential option for the poor and vulnerable should be reflected in both our daily lives and public policies. A fundamental measure of our society is how we care for and stand with our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters.

### **7. CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION**

The world that God created has been entrusted to all of us. Our stewardship of the earth is a form of participation in God's act of creating and sustaining the world. In our use of creation, we must be guided by a concern for generations to come. We show our respect for the Creator by our care for creation.