

# Catholic Commission for Social Justice

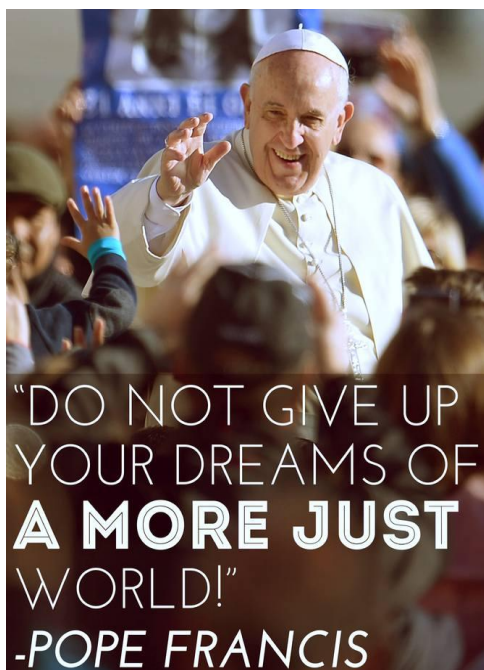


## Lenten Reflections

**NONE OF US CAN THINK  
WE ARE EXEMPT  
FROM CONCERNS FOR THE  
POOR AND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.  
POPE FRANCIS**



“Lent is a time to allow our hearts to beat once more in tune with the vibrant heart of Jesus. Let the Lord heal the wounds of sin and fulfill the prophecy made to our fathers: ‘A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh’... Lent is a time to reflect on anything that could dampen or even corrode our believing heart... return without fear to those outstretched, eager arms of your Father, who is rich in mercy, who awaits you...Return without fear to experience the healing and reconciling tenderness of God.” (Pope Francis, 14 Feb 2018)



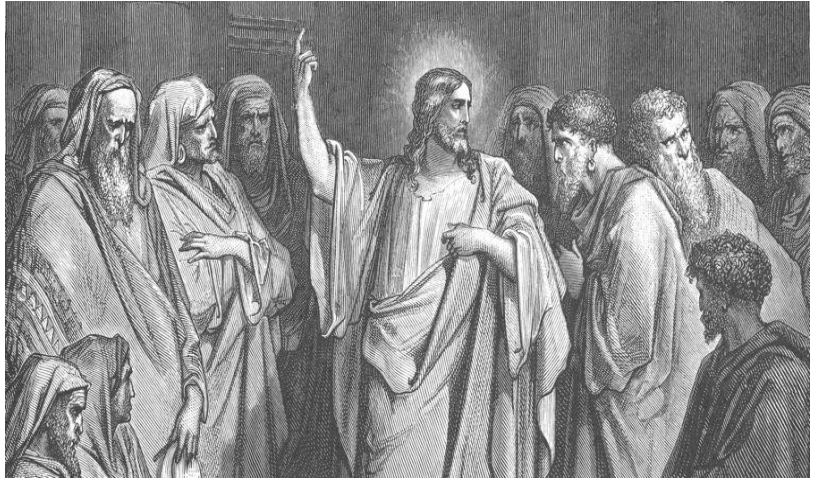
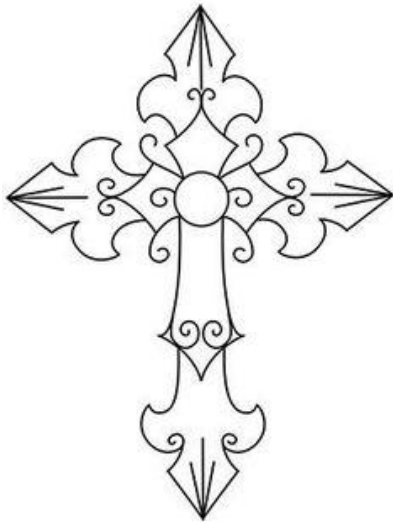
“The Church is the salt of the earth; she is the light of the world. She is called to make present in society the leaven of the Kingdom of God and she does this primarily with her witness, the witness of brotherly/sisterly love, of solidarity and of sharing with others... Being a Christian is not just about following commandments: it is about letting Christ take possession of our lives and transform them” (Pope Francis).



“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness’...God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

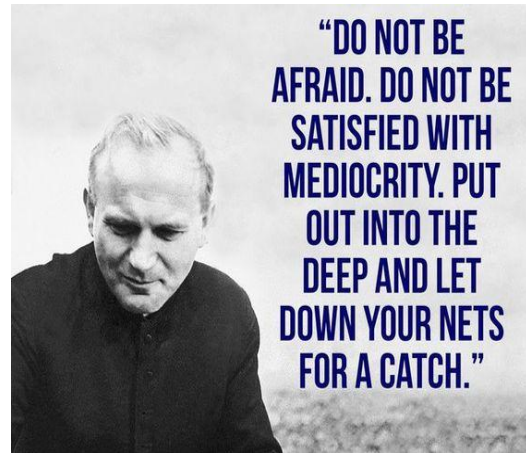
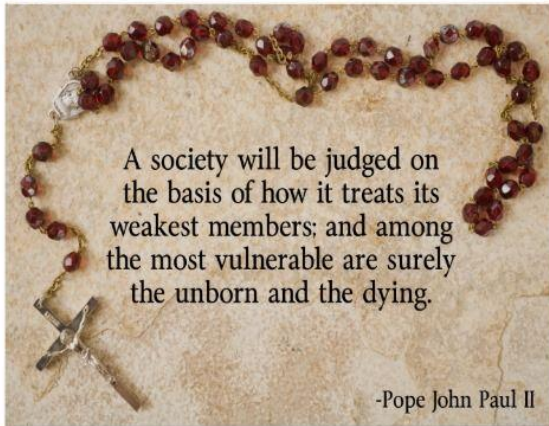
Genesis 1:26-27

To understand  
**JUSTICE**  
we need to  
seek the **LORD**  
(Proverbs 28:5)



**JESUS**  
**PREACHED**  
**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

“Society ensures social justice when it provides the conditions that allow associations or individuals to obtain what is their due, according to their nature and their vocation. Social justice is linked to the common good and the exercise of authority...Social justice can be obtained only in respecting the transcendent dignity of man. The person represents the ultimate end of society, which is ordered to him” (CCC1928-1929).



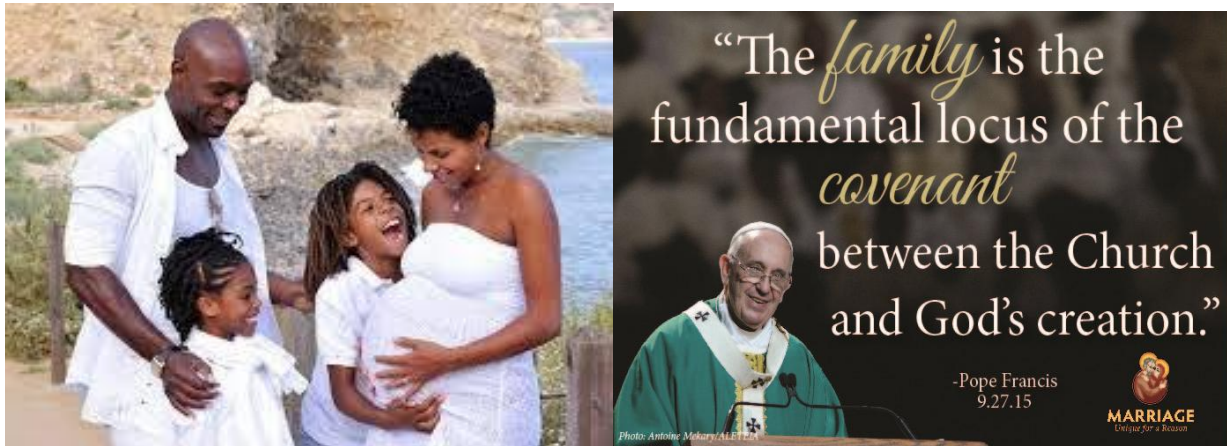
Pope St John Paul II

I ask everyone with political responsibility to remember two things: human dignity and the common good (Pope Francis)

Belief in the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all Catholic social teaching. Human life is sacred, and the dignity of the human person is the starting point for a moral vision for society. This principle is grounded in the idea that the person is made in the image of God. The person is the clearest reflection of God among us.



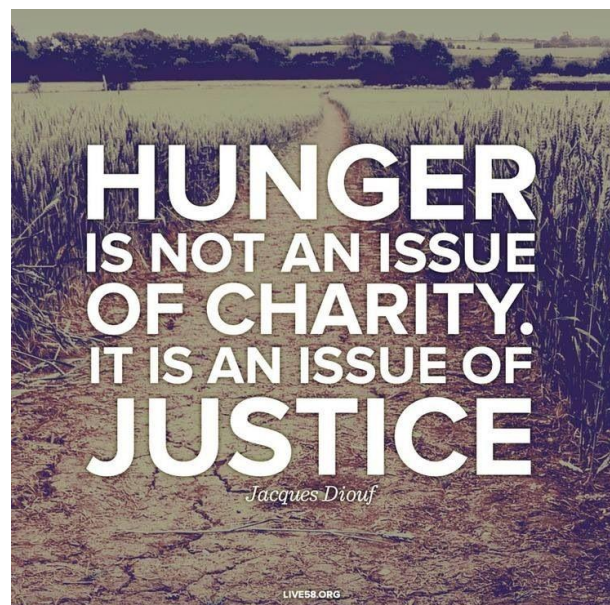
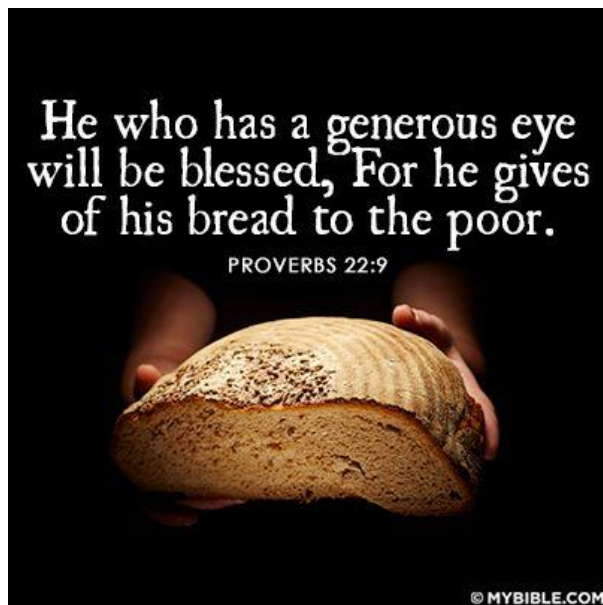
As the family goes  
so goes  
the nation  
and  
the whole world in which we live (Pope St John Paul II)

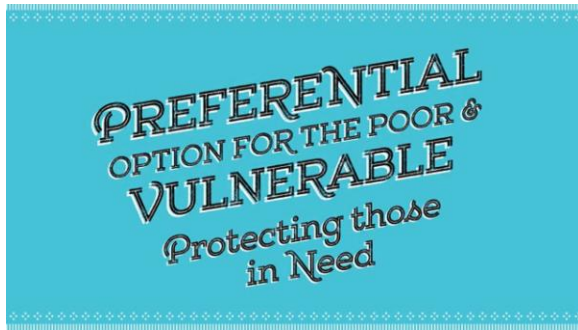


## HOW'S THE FAMILY?

The family is essential to sustaining human and social development...Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families, too, may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel, and small domestic Churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection, and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. (Pope Francis)

I want you  
To share your bread with the hungry  
Shelter the homeless poor,  
Clothe the man you see to be naked  
Remove the yoke of injustice and  
bring relief to the oppressed. (Isaiah 58)





"How do I do good?  
It's simple! 'Seek  
justice, encourage  
the oppressed,  
defend the orphan,  
plead for the widow.'"  
Pope Francis

*Millennial*

### Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

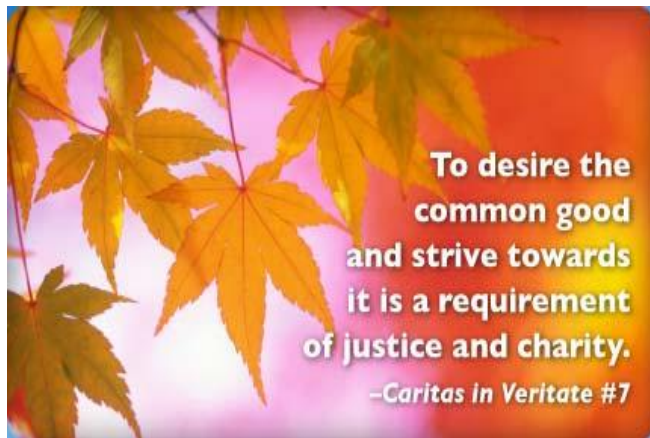
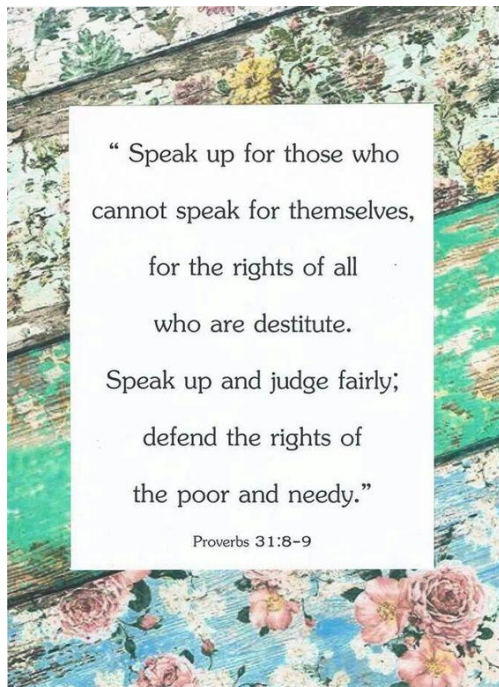
- Catholic teaching proclaims that a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring
- The Church does not pit one social group against another but instead follow the example of our Lord, who identified himself with the poor and the vulnerable. Giving priority concern to the poor and the vulnerable strengthens the health of the whole society.

We are called to look at public policy decisions in terms of how they affect the poor.

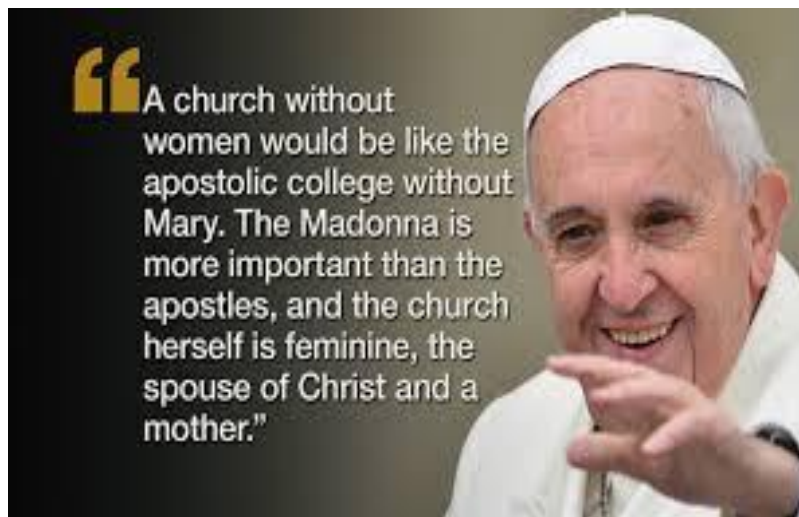


What is Justice for the poor? Caring for the poor is everyone's responsibility. Preferential care should be shown to poor and vulnerable people, whose needs and rights are given special attention in God's eyes. (Caritas Australia)





My Catholic duty is to build the common good – the  
good of each and all

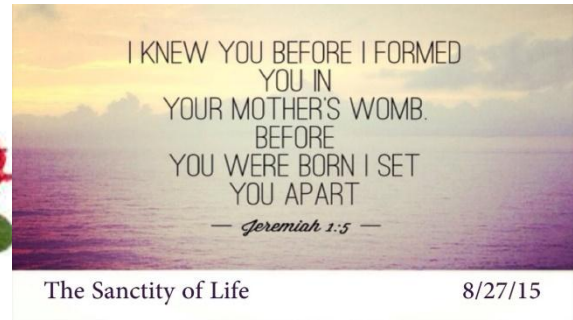


The human person is both sacred and social. We realise our dignity and rights in relationship with others, in community. How we organize our society — in economics and politics, in law and policy — directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community.



OUR LIVES  
BEGIN TO END  
THE DAY WE  
BECOME  
SILENT ABOUT  
THINGS THAT  
MATTER.  
MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.

Respect  
*Life*

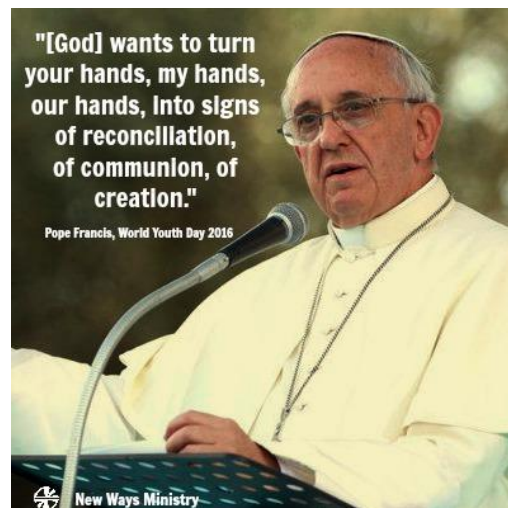
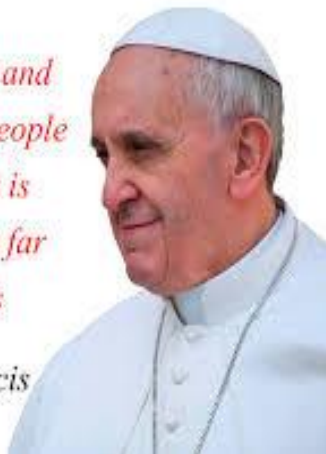


Human life is always sacred. Let's remain faithful to the Gospel of Life and respect life as a gift from God. "If the family is the sanctuary of life, the place where life is conceived and cared for, it is a horrendous contradiction when it becomes a place where life is rejected and destroyed." (Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 83)

"Respect for the human person entails respect for the rights that flow from his dignity as a creature. These rights are prior to society and must be recognized by it... Respect for the human person proceeds by way of respect for the principle that everyone should look upon his neighbour (without any exception) as 'another self' (CCC 1930, 1931).

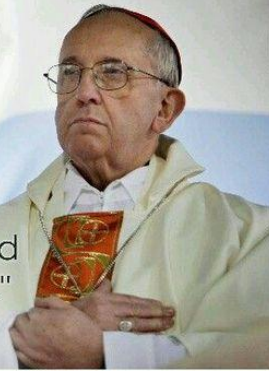
*Things have a price and  
can be for sale, but people  
have a dignity that is  
priceless and worth far  
more than things*

*Pope Francis*

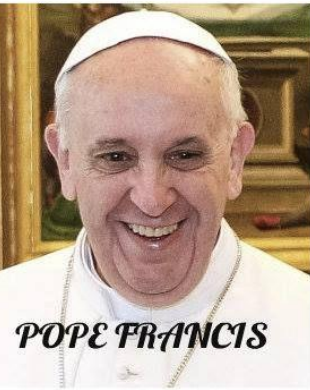


"The right to life means allowing people to LIVE and not killing, allowing them to GROW, to eat, to be educated, to be HEALED, and to be permitted to die with DIGNITY."

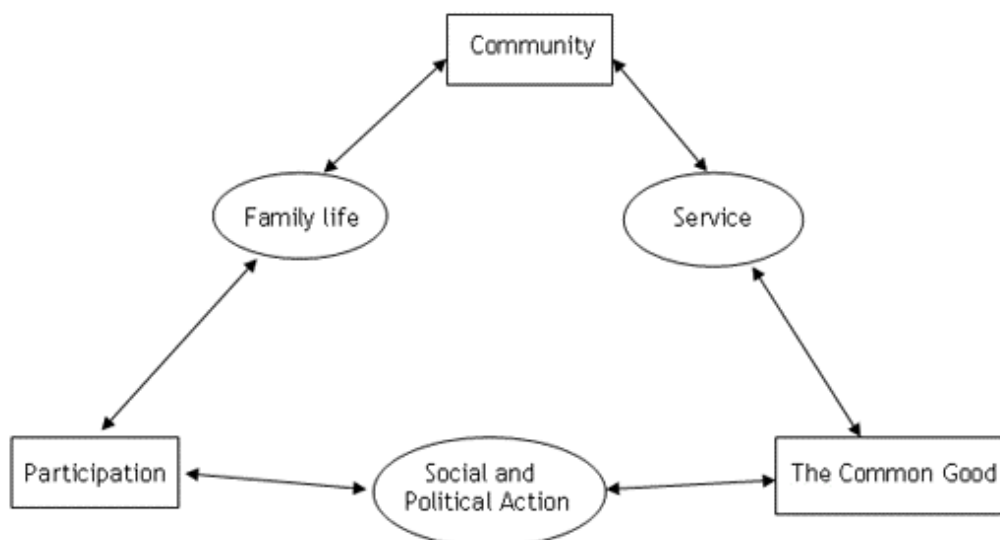
Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio



"It is not enough to say we are Christians. We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions."



**POPE FRANCIS**



Promoting social justice  
is  
everybody's responsibility

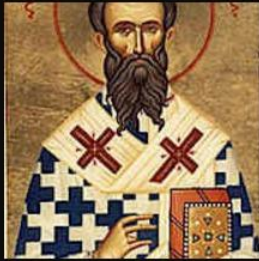


**Distributive justice -  
how wealth, work, rights and so on  
are shared fairly within a community**

The state has a positive moral function. It is an instrument to promote human dignity; protect human rights and build the common good.



Injustice anywhere  
is a threat  
to justice everywhere  
(Martin Luther King Jr.)



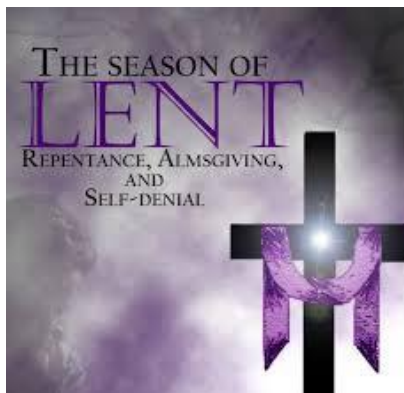
If you have two shirts in your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the man with no shirt.

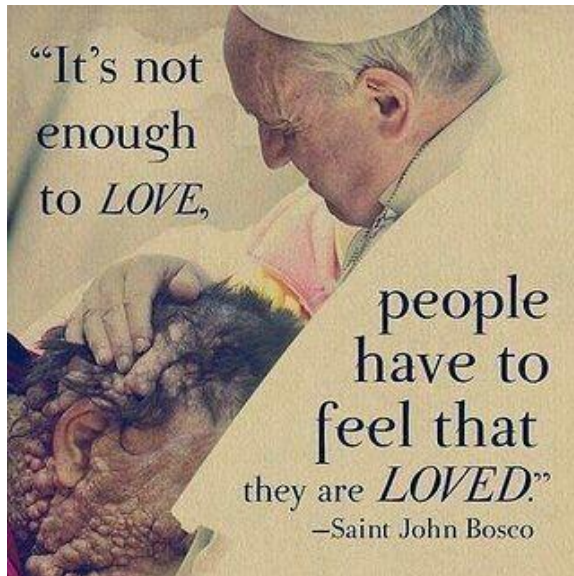
~ Ambrose

AZ QUOTES

*Catholic social teaching principle: Universal Destination of Goods*

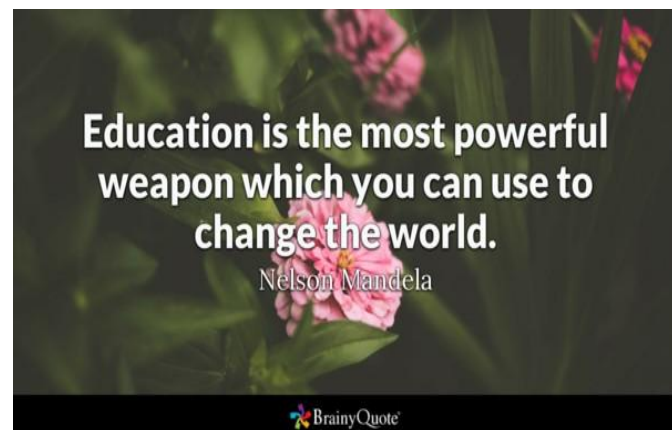
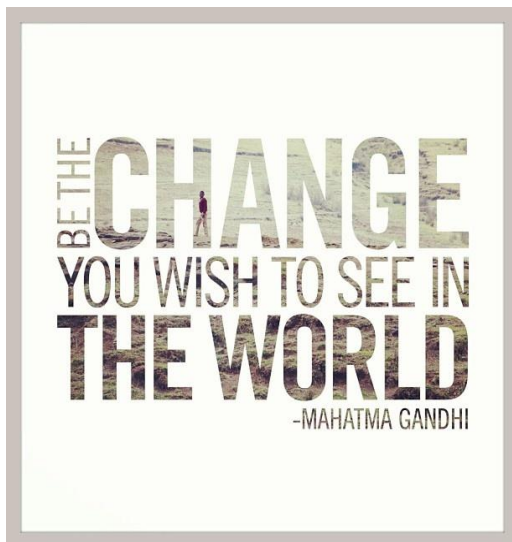
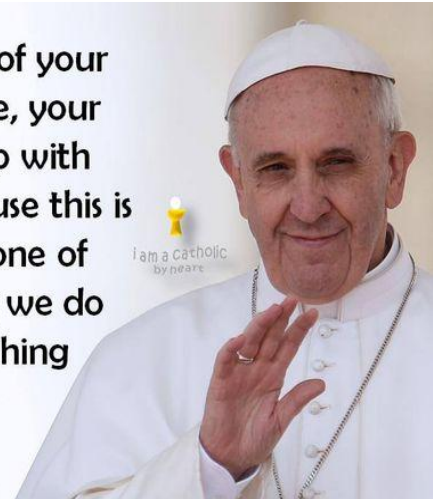
The earth and all it produces is intended for every person. Private ownership is acceptable but there is also a responsibility to ensure all have enough to live in dignity. If we have more than we need, there is a social obligation to ensure that others do not go without.



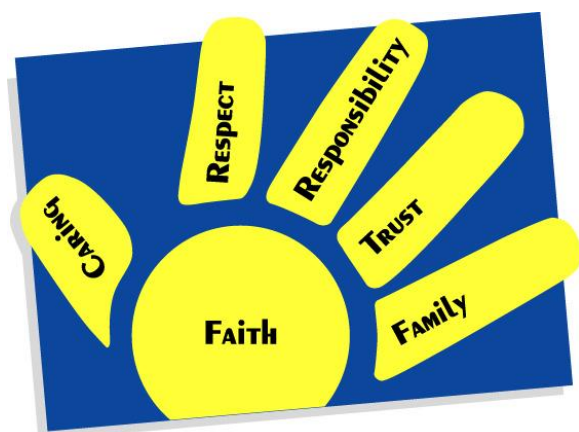
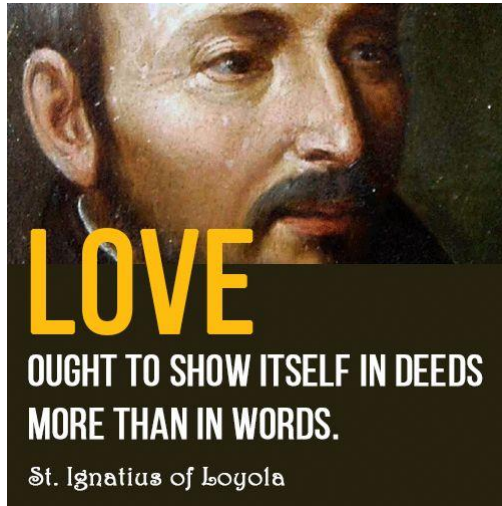


Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are.

- Pope Francis



# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

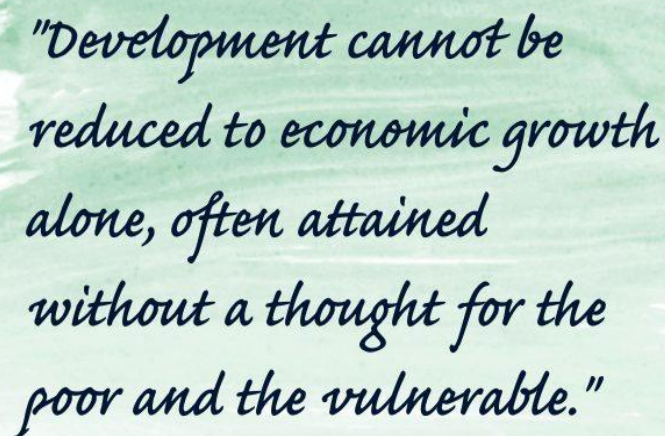




Authentic integral human development means the development of each person and of every dimension of the person e.g. spiritual, mental, social, cultural, and political. Pope Emeritus Benedict said that the whole Church, in all her being and acting - when she proclaims, when she celebrates, when she performs works of charity - “is engaged in promoting integral human development.”

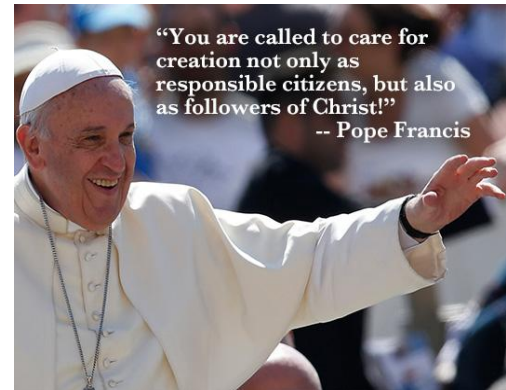
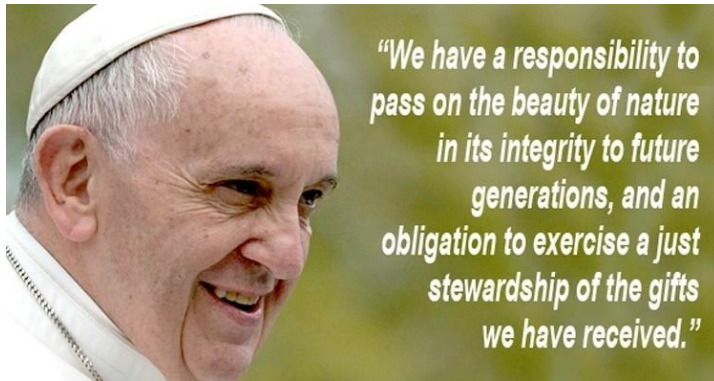
Pope Francis has said that integral development means bringing together and integrating various sectors, “the economy, finance, work, culture, family life, religion,” each of which is “a fundamental circumstance for this growth. “None of them can be an absolute, and none can be excluded from the concept of integral human development.”

Authentic development requires that we recognise the rights of nations and of peoples also.

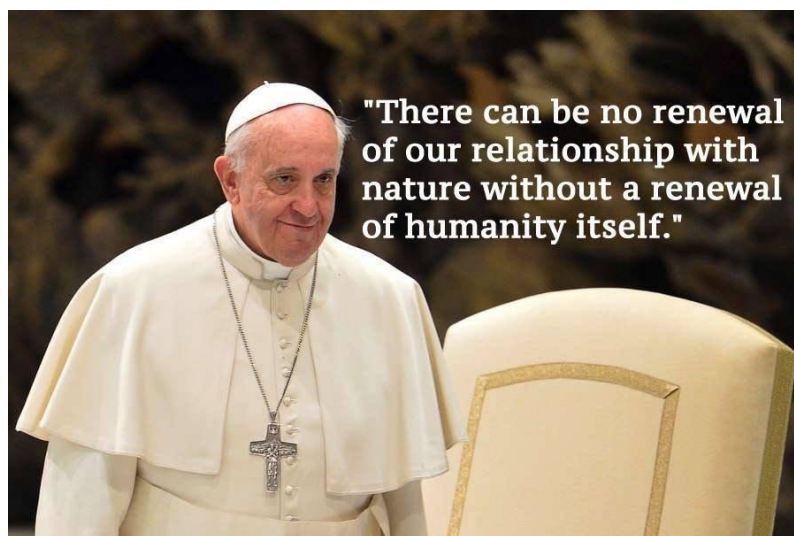
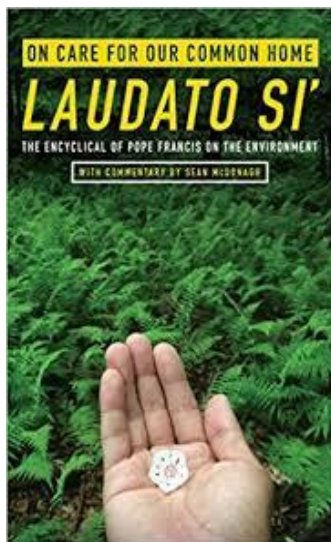


*"Development cannot be reduced to economic growth alone, often attained without a thought for the poor and the vulnerable."*

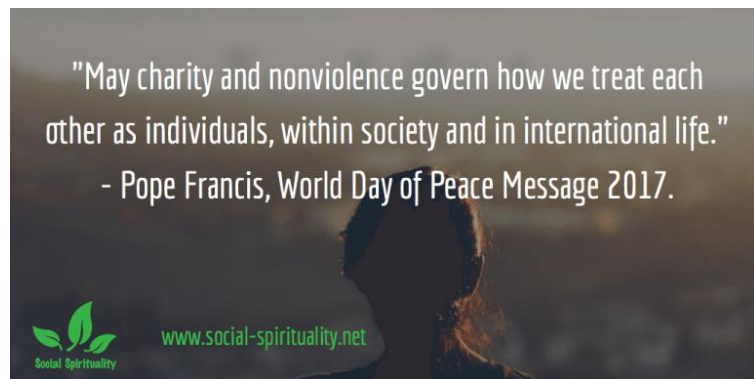
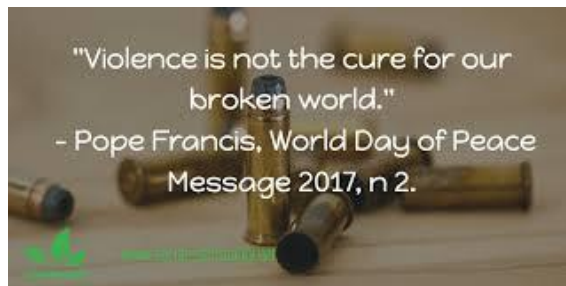
*Pope Francis, Message for the World Day of Migrants & Refugees 2014*



Let us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment...we must collaborate to care for our common home. (Pope Francis)



**We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation**



**Peace is the fruit of justice and is dependent upon right order among human beings.**

To be true followers of Jesus today also includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence (Pope Francis)

**"Peace is not just the absence of war. It involves mutual respect and confidence between peoples and nations. It involves collaboration and binding agreements" (Pope St John Paul II)**



When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace (Jimi Hendrix)



**Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?**

**- Martin Luther King, Jr.**

No elderly person should be like an "exile" in our families. The elderly are a treasure for our society.

Pope Francis



Justice is what  
love looks like  
in public.

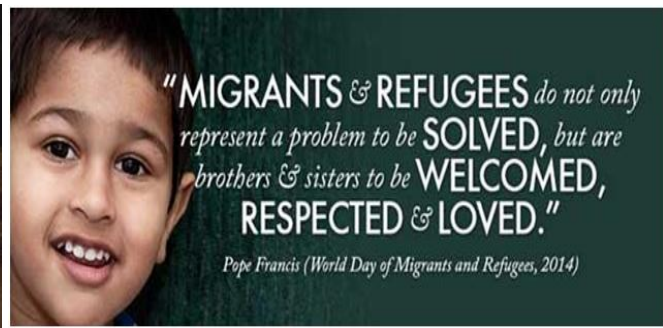
IF YOU WANT TO FIND  
GOD, SEEK HIM  
WHERE HE IS HIDDEN:  
IN THE NEEDIEST, THE  
SICK, THE HUNGRY,  
THE IMPRISONED.

POPE FRANCIS



STLCatholicYouth.com

All people have a right to participate in the economic, political, and cultural life of society. It is a fundamental demand of justice and a requirement for human dignity that all people be assured a minimum level of participation in the community.

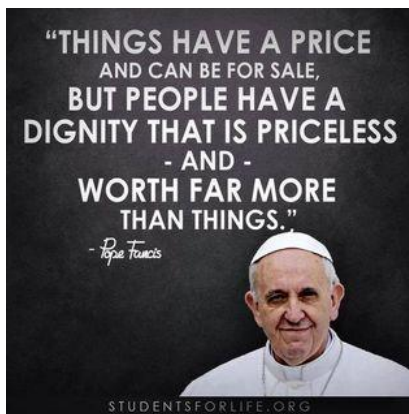



There are three stages which should normally be followed in the reduction of social principles into practice. First, one reviews the concrete situation; secondly, one forms a judgement on it in the light of these same principles; thirdly, one decides what the circumstances can and should be done to implement these principles. These are the three stages that are usually expressed in the three terms: observe, judge act. {Pope St. John XXIII, Mater et Magistra, 1961 (# 236)}



The role of Government: The state has a positive moral function - to promote human dignity, protect human rights and build the common good. All people have a right and a responsibility to participate in political institutions so that government can achieve its proper goals.

“Economic activity cannot solve all social problems through the simple application of commercial logic. It has to be ordered to the attainment of the common good, which is the responsibility above all of the political community” (Pope Francis).






## Solidarity

Every human being belongs to the one family of God. If we acknowledge human dignity, we are our sisters' and brothers' keepers.

To be in solidarity in a global and interdependent world means to respect and promote personal, social, economic, and political rights throughout the world and for all people.





Solidarity: We are one human family. Our responsibilities to each other cross national, racial, economic and ideological differences. We are called to work globally for justice. Solidarity means that "loving our neighbour" has global dimensions in an interdependent world.



“Each and everyone's existence is deeply tied to that of others: life is not time merely passing by, life is about interactions. We all need each other; none of us is an island, an autonomous and independent ‘I,’ separated from the other. We can only build the future by standing together, including everyone...everything is connected, and we need to restore our connections to a healthy state...”

“How wonderful would it be if solidarity, this beautiful and, at times, inconvenient word, were not simply reduced to social work, and became, instead, the default attitude in political, economic and scientific choices, as well as in the relationships among individuals, peoples and countries” (Pope Francis).

## With Rights Come Responsibilities

“Say no to an ephemeral, superficial and throwaway culture, a culture that assumes that you are incapable of taking on responsibility and facing the great Challenges of life!” (Pope Francis)

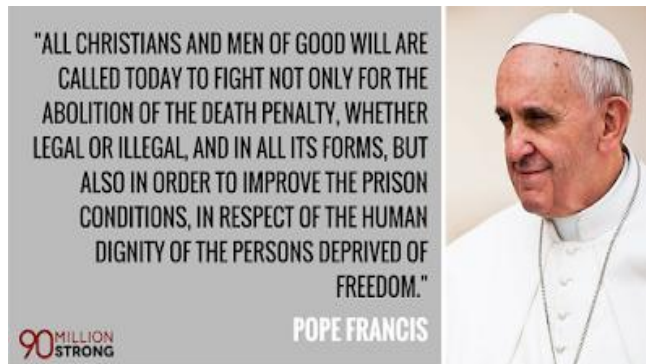
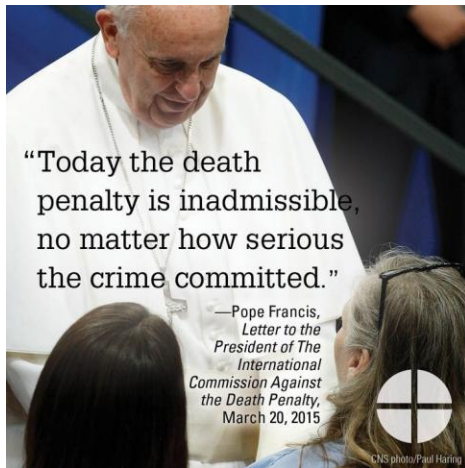
"Today the Church is renewing her urgent appeal that the dignity and centrality of every individual always be safeguarded, with respect for fundamental rights, as her social teaching emphasizes. She asks that these rights really be extended for millions of men and women on every continent wherever they are not recognized. In a world in which a lot is said about rights, how often is human dignity actually trampled upon!" (Pope Francis)

As Disciples of Christ, we are called to promote basic human rights and freedoms. Too many are excluded from the table of life! Human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency – starting with food, shelter and clothing, employment, health care, and education. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities — to one another, to our families and to the larger society.

**Jeremiah 22: 13-16** : A legitimate government upholds the rights of the poor and vulnerable.

**Luke 16:19-31** : The rich man has a responsibility to care for Lazarus.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15** : God's gifts are given to be shared.

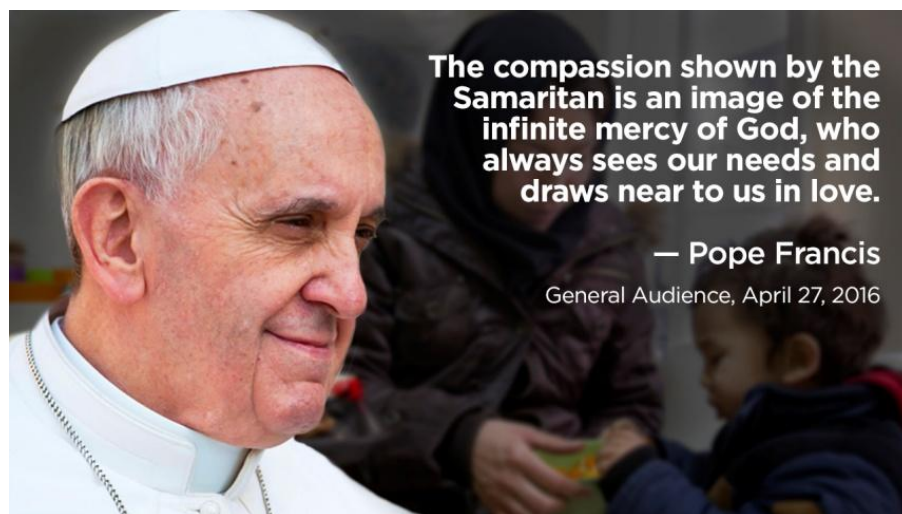
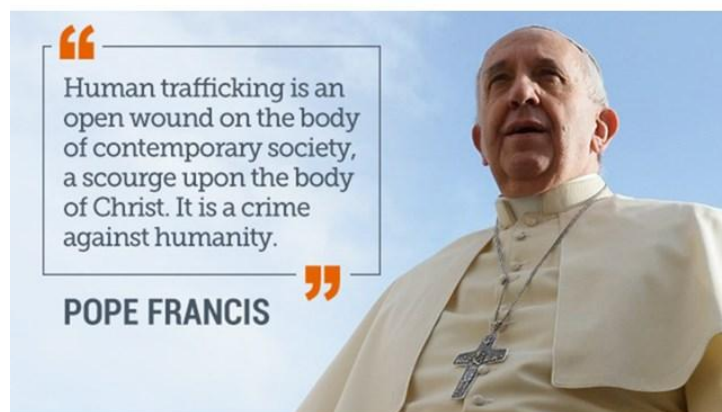
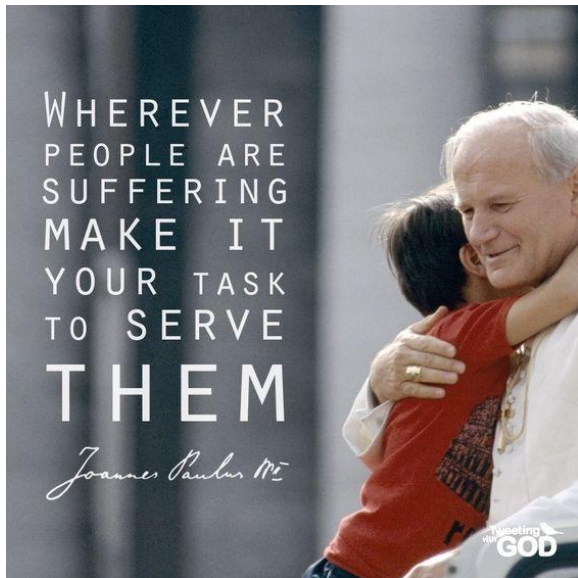


“It is important to note that while we oppose the death penalty, we embrace the victims of violent crimes; those who are hurting and grieving for their loved ones who have been killed, at times in the most heinous ways. We urge each parish to establish victim support groups and seek to meet their physical, mental, spiritual, financial and other needs.” (Archbishop Patrick Pinder and the Bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference)

“Retribution, resentment and revenge have left us with a world soaked in the blood of far too many of our sisters and brothers. The death penalty is part of that process. It says that to kill in certain circumstances is acceptable, and encourages the doctrine of revenge. If we are to break these cycles, we must remove government-sanctioned violence.

The time has come to abolish the death penalty worldwide. The case for abolition becomes more compelling with each passing year. Everywhere experience shows us that executions brutalise both those involved in the process and the society that carries them out. Nowhere has it been shown that the death penalty reduces crime or political violence. In country after country, it is used disproportionately against the poor or against racial or ethnic minorities. It is often used as a tool of political repression. It is imposed and inflicted arbitrarily. It is an irrevocable punishment, resulting inevitably in the execution of people innocent of any crime. It is a violation of fundamental human rights.” (Archbishop Desmond Tutu: The doctrine of Revenge)





## 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.



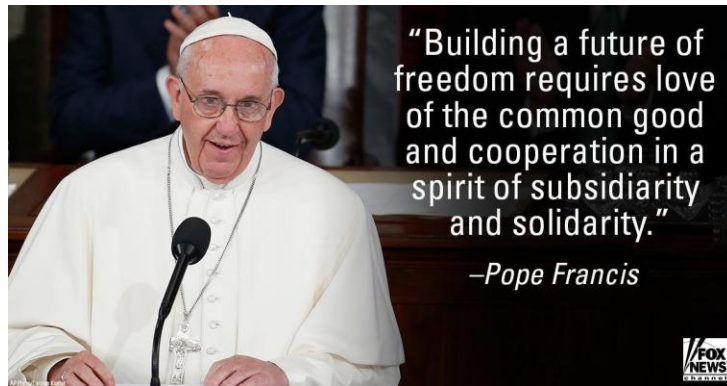
Work honours the gifts and talents that God has given to each one of us. The economy must serve the people, not the other way around (US Bishops)

“How I wish everyone had decent work! It is essential for human dignity” (Pope Francis)

The Church teaches that workers have certain rights, including:

- **Just wages** which provide them the means to live a human life and care for their family
- The right to **gainful employment**
- **Freedom from unjust discrimination**
- **Freedom to join unions** and to strike when it is necessary

Sources: Mater et Magistra, #71 ; Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2433-2435



**The principle of subsidiarity:** The primary norm for determining the scope and limits of governmental intervention is the "principle of subsidiarity". This principle states that, in order to protect basic justice, government should undertake only those initiatives which exceed the capacities of individuals or private groups acting independently. Government should not replace or destroy smaller communities and individual initiative. Rather it should help them contribute more effectively to social well-being and supplement their activity when the demands of justice exceed their capacities. This does not mean, however, that the government that governs least, governs best. Rather it defines good government intervention as that which truly "helps" other social groups contribute to the common good by directing, urging, restraining, and regulating economic activity as "the occasion requires and necessity demands".

(US Bishops: Economic Justice for All, 1986)







ENGAGING *Youth,*  
SERVING *Community*

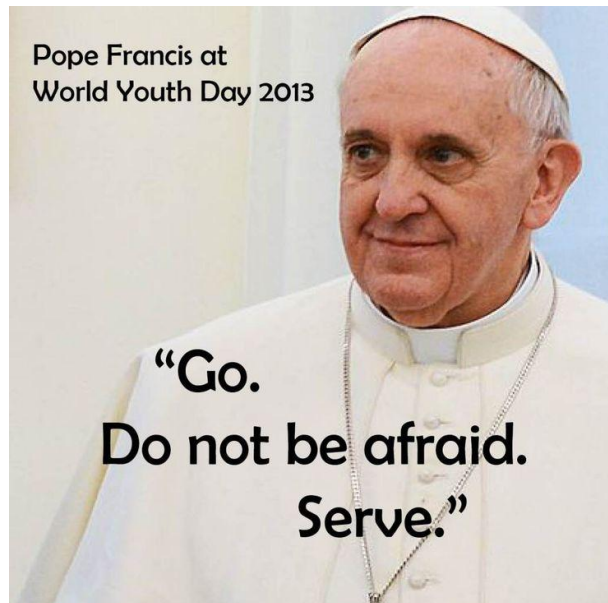
Become A  
Volunteer



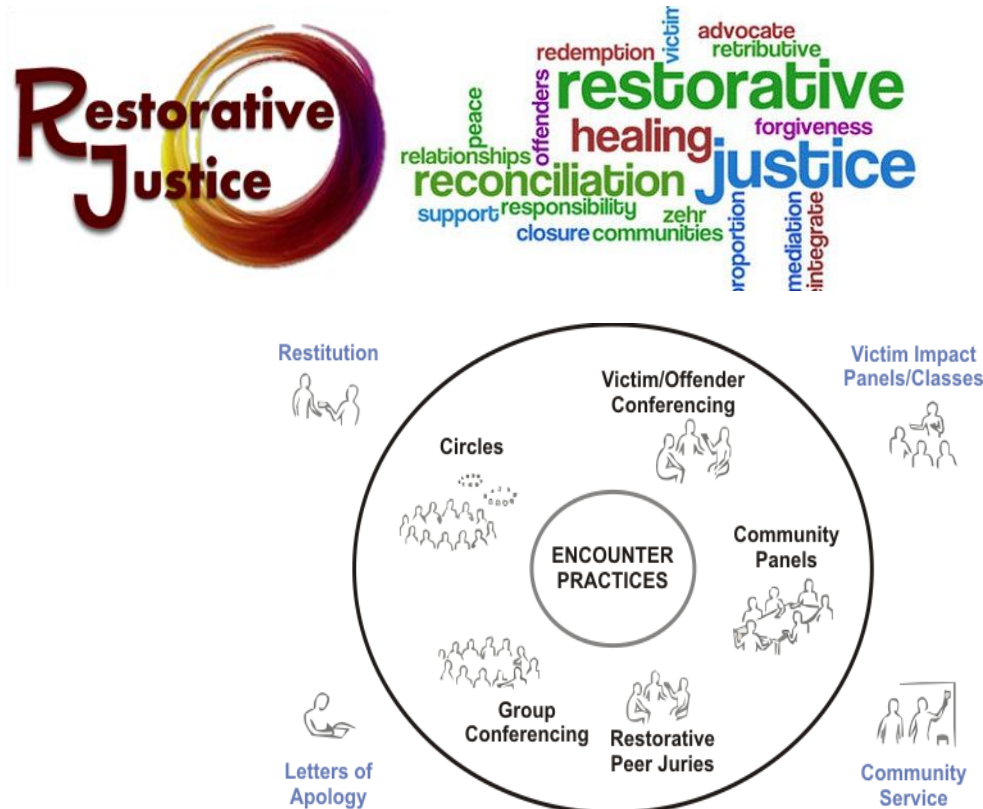
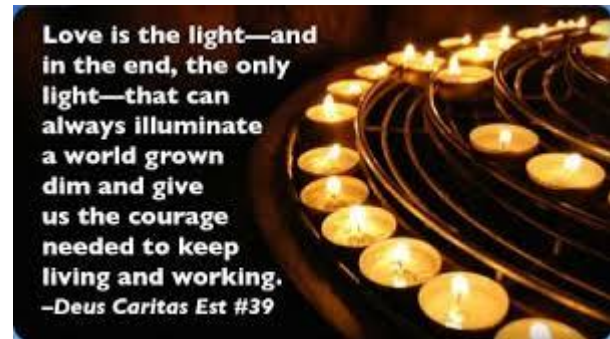
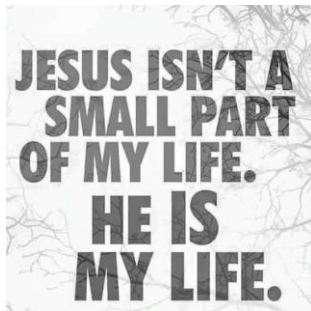
**DEAR YOUNG  
PEOPLE,  
DO NOT BURY YOUR  
TALENTS,  
THE GIFTS THAT  
GOD  
HAS GIVEN YOU!  
DO NOT BE AFRAID  
TO DREAM OF  
GREAT  
THINGS!**  
POPE FRANCIS



Pope Francis at  
World Youth Day 2013



The pursuit of justice must be a fundamental norm of the State and that the aim of a just social order is to guarantee to each person, according to the principle of subsidiarity, his share of the community's goods. This has always been emphasized by Christian teaching on the State and by the Church's social doctrine (Pope Benedict XVI, *God is Love*, 2005)



# **Catholic Social Teaching - Key Principles**

**Sanctity of Life & The Dignity of the Human Person**

**Common Good**

**Fundamental Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

**Family & Community**

**Participation in the economic, political, social and cultural life of society**

**Rights and Responsibilities**

**Economic Justice**

**Environmental Stewardship – Care for God’s Creation**

**Role of Government & Subsidiarity**

**Global Solidarity & Development**

**Social Justice, Commutative Justice,**

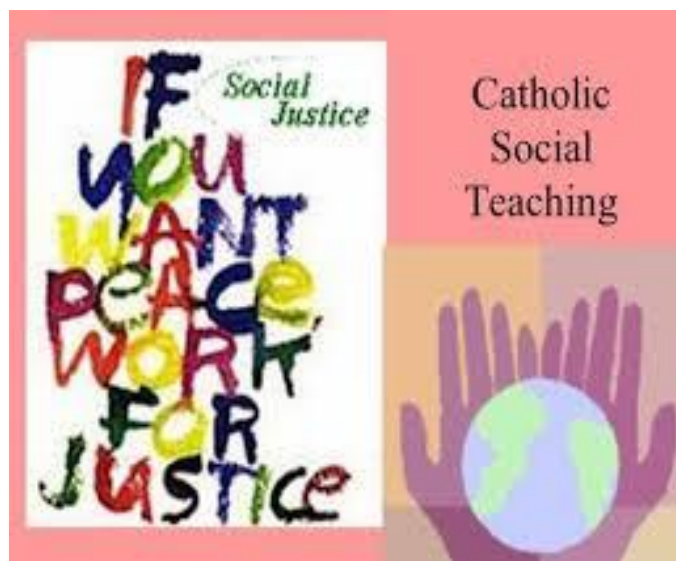
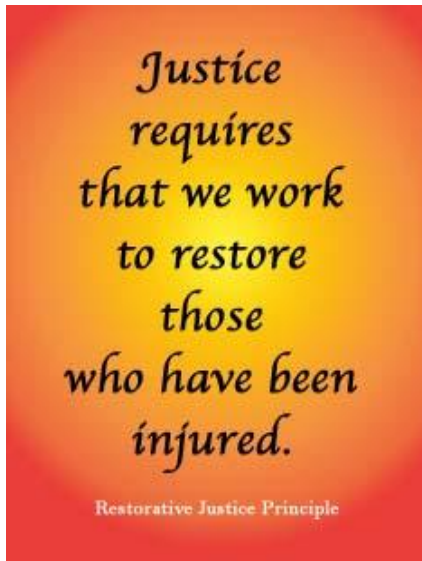
**Restorative Justice, Distributive Justice**

**Dignity of work and the Rights of Workers**

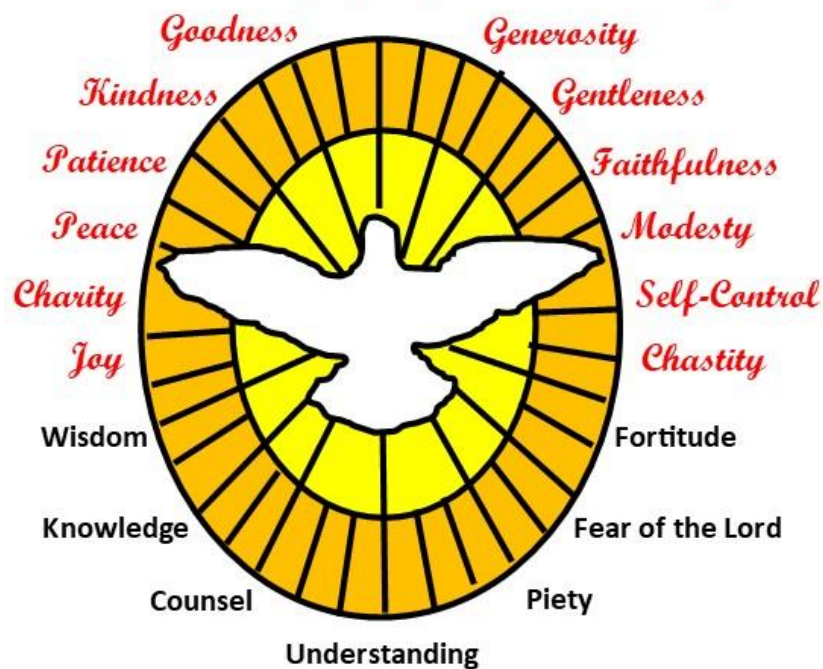
**Promotion of Peace and Disarmament**

**Universal Destination of Goods**





### FRUITS of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)



### GIFTS of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:1-3)

## Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit

For more information contact CCSJ's Chair, Leela Ramdeen (299 8945) or  
CCSJ's Office: Lorna/Cheryl - 622 6680