

## Catholic Social Teaching

The following seven themes highlight some of the key principles that are addressed in Catholic Social Teaching documents.

### Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Made in the image and likeness of God, all persons are sacred. Belief in the sanctity of human life and inherent dignity of each person is the foundation of all of our social teachings. Today this value is threatened by abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, and the many ways in which people are treated with disregard for their human dignity.

### Call to Family, Community and Participation

The human person is social as well as sacred. Our Catholic tradition teaches that human beings grow and achieve fulfillment in community. The family is the central social institution. Family life needs to be supported by other institutions and governments. Excessive individualism, competition and greed work against community and the common good.

### Rights and Responsibilities

People have a fundamental right to life and to those things necessary for human decent, such as food, shelter, health care, education and employment. People have a right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities to respect the rights of others and to work for the common good. When people lack the basic necessities to live a life of dignity, their fundamental rights are being denied.

### Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Catholic teaching proclaims that the moral test of society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. This calls us to look at public policy decisions in terms of how they affect the poor. In our present society, a minority of 20% of the people control more than 80% of the resources, leaving few resources to be shared by a majority of the people.

### Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

People have a right to humane working conditions, productive work and fair wages. The economy exists to serve the 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. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected.

### Solidarity

We are all one human family, and we are responsible for the well-being of each other. This responsibility reaches across national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences. Indifference to the pain and suffering of others has no place in our interdependent society. We are all responsible for all.

### Care for God's Creation

All of creation is a gift from God and should be respected as such. We show our respect by the way we care for the earth as stewards of all that has been entrusted to us. We need to examine how our excessive consumerism and poor environmental practices are exploiting the earth and take measures to correct our destructive patterns.

### Leadership of the Diocesan Social Action Office

Kelly Bon, Director

Jeff Campbell, Summit County

Paul Kipfstuhl, Wayne/Ashland/Medina Counties

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Providing Help. Creating Hope. **Serving All.**

# Catholic Social Teaching Month Liturgical Resources 2026

## Year A includes:

- Rights and Responsibilities
- Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers
- Life and Dignity of the Human Person



# Rights and Responsibilities

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**BULLETIN INSERT**

“In human society one man’s natural right gives rise to a corresponding duty in other men; the duty, that is of recognizing and respecting that right. Every basic human right draws its authoritative force from the natural law, which confers it and attaches to its respective duty, or only half fulfill them, is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other.” (Pacem in Terris, no. 30)

**Join us for a video presentation with Catholic Charities President and CEO Christopher Larson on “Rights and Responsibilities,” premiering Monday, November 2nd. More details at [www.ccdocle.org/cst](http://www.ccdocle.org/cst).**

**PETITION**

May we recognize our responsibilities to insure all people have the basic human rights of life, including food, water, clothing and shelter. We pray to the Lord.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you teach us the basic rights each of us possesses: Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, you call us to recognize our duty to protect the rights of all: Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you forgive us when we fail in our responsibilities: Lord, have mercy.

# Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**BULLETIN INSERT**

“Those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the Church which, since her origin and in spite of the failings of many of her members, has not ceased to work for their relief, defense and liberation.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2444 and 2448)

**Join us for a video presentation with Catholic Charities Fatima Family Center Director LeJean Ray on “Option for the Poor and Vulnerable,” premiering Monday, November 9th. More details at [www.ccdocle.org/cst](http://www.ccdocle.org/cst).**

**PETITION**

May the Church continue outreach and provide hope for the poor and most vulnerable. We pray to the Lord.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you remind us we all part of God’s family: Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, you call us to care for the poor and vulnerable: Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you teach us to bring hope to all: Lord, have mercy.

**NOTE: There are Social Media resources that parishes can use for each week on the Diocesan social media site and our website.**

# Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**BULLETIN INSERT**

“In many cases, poverty results from a a violation of the dignity of human work, either because work opportunities are limited (through unemployment or underemployment). Or ’because a low value is put on work and the rights that flow from it, especially the right to a just wage and to the personal security of the worker and his or her family.” (Caritas in Veritate, 63)

**Join us for a video presentation with Catholic Charities Job and Career Training Services Director LaShana Bolden-Luster on “Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers,” premiering Monday, November 16th. More details at [www.ccdocle.org/cst](http://www.ccdocle.org/cst).**

**PETITION**

May we recognize and respect the dignity of all work, especially those who work in dangerous and challenging situations. We pray to the Lord

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you teach us the sacredness of work: Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, guide us to work as we build God’s kingdom: Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, forgive us when we fail to respect the dignity of work: Lord, have mercy.

# Life and Dignity of the Human Person

CHRIST THE KING

**BULLETIN INSERT**

The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God (CCC 1700). As such, ...”all men have the same nature and the same origin. Redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ, all are called to participate in the same divine beatitude: all therefore enjoy an equal dignity.” (CCC, 1934)

**Join us for a video presentation with Catholic Charities CYO Athletics Director Paul Kelly on “Dignity of the Human Person,” premiering Monday, November 23rd. More details at [www.ccdocle.org/cst](http://www.ccdocle.org/cst).**

**PETITION**

May the leaders of our Church promote the dignity of all people, emphasizing we are created in the image and likeness of God. We pray to the Lord.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you call us to work for the dignity of all people: Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, you teach us to remember the forgotten: Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you heal us when we fail: Lord, have mercy.

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