

Catholic Business & Professional Forum

Let's Change the World



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Catholic Social Teaching is the Way

Saint John Paul II

"a singular response to the invitation I offered in the Encyclical which inspired this group, to promote and defend the knowledge and practice of the Church's social doctrine."

Saint John Paul II

"to spread her social doctrine pertains to the Church's evangelization mission and is an essential part of the Christian message"

Saint John Paul II

"the Church's social teaching is itself a valid instrument of evangelization."

Centesimus Annus, 54

Evangelizing the World with Catholic Social Teaching:

A Lay Imperative

Catholic Social Teaching =

Christian Teaching

Saint John Paul II

"it proclaims God and his mystery of salvation in Christ to every human being, and for that very reason reveals man to himself...in this light, and only in this light, does it concern itself with everything else."

Catholic Social Teaching

Social Contract Theory

Catholic Social Teaching =

Christian Teaching

Social Contract Theory =

Autonomous

CST KEY PRINCIPLES

- Human Dignity
- Solidarity
- Subsidiarity

Catholic Social Teaching

72 Million Roman Catholics

72 Million Roman Catholics

TO WHAT EFFECT?

The Paradox

Catholic Catholic
Social Impact
Prominence On Society

PARADOX

The Paradox

Catholic Catholic
Social Impact
Prominence On Society

-CULTURE -CHURCH

- Faith
- Hope
- Ingenuity

The issue involves ethical and cultural systems – Not economic

Renovate and Reclaim our Catholic Traditions and Teachings and Put Them in Service to Our Fellow Man

"Freedom...demands the courage to engage in civic life and to bring one's deepest beliefs and values to reasoned public debate"

Benedict XVI, White House Welcoming Ceremony, 16 April 2008, Washington, DC

Evangelizing the World with Catholic Social Teaching:

A Lay Imperative

HUMAN DIGNITY

Correct Understanding of The Human Person

Correct Understanding of The Human Person

The Core Principle

Correct Understanding of The Human Person

"Fundamental rights are neither created by the lawmaker nor granted to the citizen. The value of human dignity...takes precedence over all political decision making."

Pope Benedict XVI, "Europe and its Discontents", First Things, January 2006

Correct Understanding of The Human Person

"the State is bound to protect natural rights, not destroy them."

Pope Leo XIII, Rerum Novarum, 135

Principle of CST

SOLIDARITY

"All men and women are called to live as one, each taking care of the other"

Pope Francis, World Day of Peace Message, 1 January 2014, 2

For our own good

And a

Necessary Component of Faith

Love of God & Love of Neighbor



One Commandment

"We cannot believe in God the Father without seeing a brother or sister in every person, and we cannot follow Jesus without giving our lives for those for whom he died on the cross."

Pope Francis, Welcome Ceremony, La Paz (Bolivia), 8 July 2015

Principle of CST

SUBSIDIARITY

SUBSIDIARITY

Problems best solved at level they arise

Lowest competent level

SUBSIDIARITY

"No actual or established power has the right to deprive peoples of the full exercise of their sovereignty."

Pope Francis, Address to the Second World Meeting of Popular Movements, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 9 July 2015

SUBSIDIARITY

"Individuals and groups have the right to go their own way, even though they may sometimes make mistakes. In full respect for that freedom, civil society is called to help each person and social organization to take up its specific role and thus contribute to the common good."

Pope Francis, Address to a Meeting With Political, Economic and Civic Leaders,
Quito, Ecuador, 7 July 2015

Principle of CST

SUBSIDIARITY

The 3 Key Principles of CST

HUMAN DIGNITY SOLIDARITY SUBSIDIARITY

Whose Job Is It?

"The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible"

"to cooperate in the pursuit of the common good, through her social and educational works, promoting ethical and spiritual values, and serving as a prophetic sign which brings a ray of light and hope to all"

Pope Francis, Address to a Meeting With Political, Economic and Civic Leaders, Quito, Ecuador,

What Must I Do?

Evangelizing the World with Catholic Social Teaching:

A Lay Imperative

What Must I Do?

"the direct duty to work for a just ordering of society...is proper to the lay faithful"

What Must I Do?

"the laity have the principal role in the overall fulfillment of this duty"

LUMEN GENTIUM, 21 NOVEMBER 1964, Chapter IV

What Must I Do?

"A new state of affairs today both in the Church and in social, economic, political and cultural life, calls with a particular urgency for the action of the lay faithful. If lack of commitment is always unacceptable, the present time renders it even more so. It is not permissible for anyone to remain idle."

What Must I Do?

"an exacting and indispensable form of charity"

Caritas In Veritate, 1

- "insisting especially on the formation of consciences on the basis of the Church's social doctrine."
- "best antidote"
- "evangelization of the leadership sector"

"it should not come as a surprise that many who are a part of it will be guided by criteria alien to the Gospel and at times openly contrary to it."

Ecclesia in America, 1999

Pope John Paul II

"The decisions which create a human environment can give rise to specific structures of sin..."

PURPOSE

Change:

Our life styles
Our models of production
and consumption
The established structures of
power which today govern
societies

"To destroy structures and replace them with more authentic forms of living in community is a task which demands courage and patience."

Centesimus Annus, 38

"...it is a moral obligation. For Christians, the responsibility is even greater; it is a commandment"

PURPOSE

For lay Catholic leaders form their consciences on the principles of CST so that they may change their own lives, first, and then, change the world.

PURPOSE

CST is <u>not</u> a theory it is

"above all else a basis and a motivation for action."

CULTURE

Morality



Radical Secularism

"Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law on the basis of a correct view of the human person...Nowadays there is a tendency to claim that agnosticism and skeptical relativism are the philosophy and the basic attitude which correspond to democratic forms of political life. Those who are convinced that they know the truth and firmly adhere to it are considered unreliable from a democratic point of view, since they do not accept that truth is determined by the majority or that it is subject to variation according to different political trends. It must be observed in this regard that if there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political activity, then ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. As history demonstrates a democracy without values easily turns into open or thinly disguised totalitarianism." (CA, 46)

Dictatorship of Relativism

"Without truth, without trust and love for what is true, there is no social conscience and responsibility, and social action ends up serving private interests and the logic of power..."CIV, 5

"fidelity to the truth...alone is the guarantee of freedom".

(CIV, 9)

Pope Francis

"There is nothing human about a society based on relationships of power...it proves oppressive and restrictive"

(Pope Francis, World Day of Peace Message, 2014, 8)

CST

What Must I Do?

CST

What Must I Do?

"Freedom...demands the courage to engage in civic life and to bring one's deepest beliefs and values to reasoned public debate"

(Benedict XVI, White House Welcoming Ceremony, 16 April 2008, Washington, DC)

CST

How Do I Do This?

It takes courage!

"The approval of the prevailing wisdom...is not the criterion to which we submit."

(Benedict XVI, op. cit., Homily, 6 January 2013)

"and thus fall into moral subjectivism and certain objectionable ways of acting."

(Pope Saint John Paul II, Encyclical Letter Evangelium Vitae, 25 March 1995, 95)

"What is Truth?"

"Anyone who lives and proclaims the faith of the Church is on many points out of step with the prevalent way of thinking...Today's regnant agnosticism has its own dogmas and is extremely intolerant regarding anything that would question it and the criteria it employs."

(Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, 6 January 2013)

"[T]he courage to contradict the prevailing mindset is particularly urgent..."

"inevitably, we will also be beaten by those who live lives opposed to the Gospel"

(Benedict XVI, Homily, 6 January 2013)

- "profess our beliefs...on Sunday...then:
- promote contrary business practices
- promote contrary medical practices
- exploit or ignore the poor
- promote sexual behavior contrary to moral teaching
- adopt positions that contradict the right to life" Benedict XVI, Address to US Bishops, 16 April 08

"Doing" Catholic Social Teaching Takes Courage

"Any tendency to treat religion as a private matter must be resisted. Only when faith permeates every aspect of their lives do Christians become truly open to the transforming power of the Gospel"

Evangelizing the World with CST

"Doing" Catholic Social Teaching Takes Courage

"Christian consistency"

"to think like a Christian; to feel like a Christian and to act like a Christian"

Pope Francis, *Homily*, 27 February 2014 (as reported in L'Osservatore Romano, 7 March 2014, #10, pg. 14)

Centesimus Annus - Pro Pontifice

<u>Challenge</u>

To develop a strong, committed group of lay men and women, rich in faith and theologically prepared to be present in public life to explain, develop and implement Catholic Social Teaching

How do I do this?

However

Faith First

How do I do this? Faith First

"Adhering to the values of Christianity is not merely useful but essential for building a good society and for true integral human development.".

Caritas in Veritate, 4

"To respond to their vocation, the lay faithful must see their daily activities as an occasion to join themselves to God, fulfill his will, serve other people and lead them to communion with God in Christ".

Saint John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation Christifideles Laici, 30 December 1988, 17

How do I do this? <u>Faith First</u>

"Christians must always have this attitude of meekness, humility...trusting in Jesus and entrusting themselves to Jesus"

Pope Francis, Address in Saint Peter's Square, 18 May 2013

How do I do this?

"we are not provocative; on the contrary we invite all to enter into the joy of that truth which shows us the way...Our criterion is the Lord himself. If we defend his cause, we will constantly gain others to the way of the Gospel"

Benedict XVI, Homily, 6 January 2013

Pope Saint John Paul II

Founded

Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice

June 5, 1993

Pope Saint John Paul II

Message to CAPP

"I therefore urge the Members to spare no effort to ensure that the Foundation seeks to pursue these goals"

Saint John Paul II, Address to CAPP, 4 Dec 04



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Loving Father, you gather us together in this time and place. Send your Spirit to be with us and open our hearts to do your will as we make this journey, dedicated to evangelizing your Word through Catholic social teaching. Help us with your grace to embrace this new evangelization with faith and love. May it empower us to recognize you and to bear witness to your presence in the world. We ask this through the intercession of Saint John Paul the Great and Our Lady of Fatima, with her son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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Centesimus Annus – Pro Pontifice

www.capp-usa.org

