

# Shaping A New World

The Catholic Social Justice Tradition 1891-2006 (Updated to 2013)

**1891 – Leo XIII**  
**RERUM NOVARUM**  
*The Condition of Labor*

Lays out rights and responsibilities of capital and labor. Describes proper role of government. Condemns atheistic socialism.

**1931 – Pius XI**  
**QUADRAGESIMO ANNO**  
*The Reconstruction of the Social Order*

Decries the effects of greed and concentrated economic power on working people and society. Proposes a society based on subsidiarity.

**1961 – John XXIII**  
**MATER ET MAGISTRA**  
*Christianity and Social Progress*

Deplores widening gap between rich and poor nations, arms race and plight of farmers. Calls Christians to work for a more just world.

**1963 – John XXIII**  
**PACEM IN TERRIS**  
*Peace on Earth*

Affirms full range of human rights as the basis for peace. Calls for disarmament and a world-wide public authority to promote universal common good.

**1965 Vatican II**  
**GAUDIUM ET SPES**  
*The Church in the Modern World*

Laments growing world poverty and threat of nuclear war. States responsibility of Christians to work for structures to make a more just and peaceful world.

**1967 – Paul VI**  
**PROGRAM POPULORUM**  
*The Development of Peoples*

Affirms right of poor nations to full human development. Decries economic structures promoting inequality. Calls for new international organizations and agreements

**1971 – Paul VI**  
**OCTOGESIMA ADVENIENS**  
*A Call to Action*

Calls for political action for economic justice. Develops role of individual Christians and local churches in responding to unjust situations.

**1971 – Synod of Bishops**  
**JUSTICE IN THE WORLD**

Names action for justice a constituent part of being Christian. Calls the Church to model the justice she preaches.

**1975 – Paul VI**  
**EVANGELII NUNTIANDI**  
*Evangelization in the Modern World*

Notes the dramatic societal changes and their challenges to the Church. Calls evangelization the transforming of all aspects of life from within.

**1979 – John Paul II**  
**REDEMPTOR HOMINIS**  
*Redeemer of Humankind*

Describes the threats to human dignity and freedom. States that current economic and political structures are inadequate to remedy injustice.

**1981 – John Paul II**  
**LABOREM EXERCENS**  
*On Human Work*

Affirms the dignity of work based on dignity of the worker. Calls for workplace justice as responsibility of society, employer, worker.

**1987 – John Paul II**  
**SOLLICITUDO REI SOCIALIS**  
*The Social Concerns of the Church*

Names East-West blocs and other “structures of sin” which hinder development of poor nations. Calls for solidarity and for an option for the poor by affluent nations.

**1991 – John Paul II**  
**CENTESIMUS ANNUS**  
*The 100<sup>th</sup> Year*

Reaffirms principles of Rerum Novarum. Identifies failures of both socialist and market economies. Calls for society of free work, enterprise and participation.

**2005 – Benedict XVI**  
**DEUS CARITAS EST**  
*God is Love: The First Encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI signed on 12/25/05; promulgated on 1/25/06*

Pope Benedict reflects on the concepts of eros, agape & logos and how they relate to the Teachings of Christ

**2007 – Benedict XVI**  
**SPE SALVI**  
*Saved in Hope*

Pope Benedict asks about the relationship between hope and redemption. He then proceeds to link these two Christian concepts to the theological virtue of faith.

**2009 – Benedict XVI**  
**CARITAS IN VERITATE**  
*Charity in Truth*

Concerned with the problems of global development and progress towards the common good, arguing that both Love and Truth are essential elements of an effective response.

**The modern social teaching of the Church is found primarily in papal encyclicals and synod documents. Starting with Leo XIII’s Rerum Novarum, the body of thought has evolved through the years, shaped by the social, economic, political and cultural realities of the times. Certain key themes pervade the teaching and are developed in response to the needs of the historical period in which the document was written:**

- ❑ **Primacy of the Person**
- ❑ **Social Nature of the Human Person**
- ❑ **Common Good Inseparable from Good Persons**
- ❑ **Solidarity of the Human Family**
- ❑ **Subsidiary as the Rule of Social Organization**
- ❑ **Participation as a Basic Right**
- ❑ **Dignity of Work**
- ❑ **Universal Purpose of Goods**
- ❑ **Special Claim of the Poor & Vulnerable**

This chart and its accompanying resources on Catholic social teaching titled Shaping a New World The Catholic Justice Tradition 1891 – 2006 were prepared by NETWORK Education Program. For printed resources and speakers on social justice principles and issues, contact NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby, 801 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Ste. 460, Washington, DC 20003, Tel. (202) 547-5556, Fax (202) 547-5510. Revised and updated by Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Paterson, NJ, March 2013.

Communities of Salt and Light

(Bishops' statement on parish life as the center of living out Catholic Social Teaching-1993)

Confronting a Culture of Violence (Stand Against Violence 1994)

A Decade after Economic Justice for All

(Bishops' statement in commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their 1986 Pastoral Letter on Economic Justice-1996)

A Catholic Framework for Economic Life

(Bishops' statement listing 10 basic moral principles for economic decision making-1996)

The Common Good and the Catholic Church's Social Teaching  
(Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales-1997)

Called To Global Solidarity

(Bishops' statement on global interdependence-1997)

Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholic-1998

Everyday Christianity-1998

**LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF – 1998**

A Good Friday Appeal to End the Death Penalty-1999

Faithful Citizenship-1999

In All Things Charity-1999

**RESPONSIBILITY, REHABILITATION, AND RESTORATION - 2000**

A Place at the Table (A Catholic recommitment to overcome poverty and to respect the dignity of all God's children-2002)

Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope (A pastoral letter concerning migration- 2003)

Welcome the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity

(A USCCB statement on the pastoral needs of immigrants in the U.S. and a call for a welcoming posture at the parish level-2003)

**STRANGERS NO LONGER: TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY OF HOPE**

A PASTORAL LETTER CONCERNING MIGRATION – 1/22/03

A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death

A USCCB statement calling for an end to the use of the death penalty-2005

Labor Day 2006: A Labor Day Reflection on Immigration and Work Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, September 4, 2006  
Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, November 2007 UCCB

Labor Day 2008: An American Catholic Tradition Bishop William F. Murphy, September 1, 2008 Spanish Version/En Español

Respecting The Just Rights Of Workers, JUNE 2009 UCCB

Labor Day 2009: The Value of Work Bishop William Murphy September 7, 2009 Spanish Version/En Español

Labor Day 2010: A New “Social Contract” for Today’s “New Things” Bishop William Murphy, September 6, 2010

Letter to Super Committee: Treatment Of Jobless, Hungry And Homeless Is Moral Measure Of Deficit Reduction Bishop Stephen E. Blaire and Bishop Howard J. Hubbard, August 31, 2011

A Statement on Poverty in New Jersey by the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey November 21, 2011

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