

Christian Morality

How We Live What We Believe
Our Catholic Social Teaching

From Our Series on The Four Pillars of the Catholic Church

Our Creed
(We Believe)

Mass/Sacraments
(We Worship)

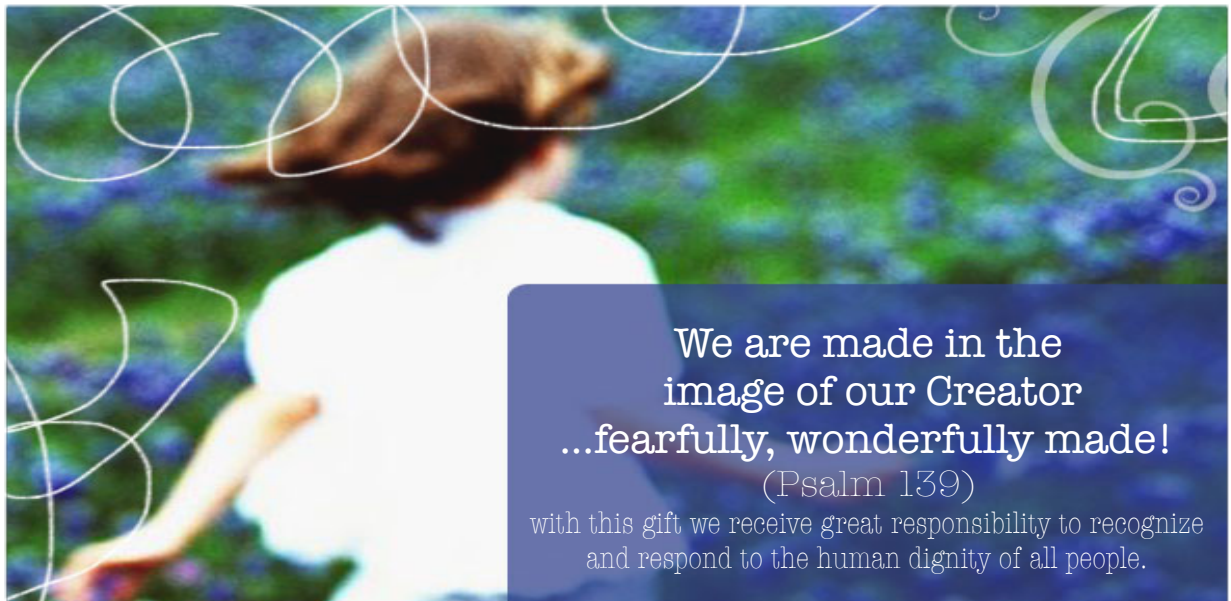
Christian Morality
(We Live It!)

Christian Prayer
(We Pray)

As Catholic Christians we are called to live out our faith. Scripture shows us the way, as God gives the Israelites the Ten Commandments and Jesus presents the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes. Jesus is the Way, and he calls us to respond to his invitation, "Come, Follow Me."

The Church also helps us in this mission, through the emphasis on living the virtues, as well as the gift of our Catholic Social Teaching (CST). The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops describe Catholic Social Teaching as a "central and essential element of our faith." They go on to say we are "called to reach out and build relationships of love and justice."

How can we pass on this rich tradition? How do we help our children live a "good life"? The following pages offer further resources, lesson ideas, and events planned this year for further education about or opportunities to live out our faith.



We are made in the
image of our Creator
...fearfully, wonderfully made!
(Psalm 139)

with this gift we receive great responsibility to recognize
and respond to the human dignity of all people.

Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

- The Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- The Call to Family, Community and Participation
- Solidarity
- The Dignity of Work
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Caring for God's Creation

Defining Life and Human Dignity

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

“The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. The value of human life is being threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.”

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/life-and-dignity-of-the-human-person.cfm>

For foundational documents supporting Catholic Social Teachings:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/foundational-documents.cfm>

The Ten Commandments

- I am the LORD your God. You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.
- You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
- Honor your father and your mother.
- You shall not kill.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Great Commandment

And one of them, a doctor of the Law, putting him to the test, asked him, "Master, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

Jesus said to him, "'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind.' This is the greatest and the first commandment. And the second is like it, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself'" On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:33-40)

Corporal Works of Mercy

To feed the hungry;
To give drink to the thirsty;
To clothe the naked;
To harbour the harbourless;
To visit the sick;
To ransom the captive;
To bury the dead.

The Precepts of the Catholic Church

1. To attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, and resting from servile works.
2. To observe the days of abstinence and fasting.
3. To confess our sins to a priest, at least once a year.
4. To receive Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist at least once a year during Easter Season.
5. To contribute to the support of the Church

Spiritual Works of Mercy

To instruct the ignorant;
To counsel the doubtful;
To admonish sinners;
To bear wrongs patiently;
To forgive offenses willingly;
To comfort the afflicted;
To pray for the living and the dead.

Theological Virtues

faith
hope
charity

Cardinal Virtues

prudence
justice
fortitude
temperance

Christian Living

Activity and Discussion Guide

The principle of Life and Dignity of the Human Person is the basis for all other Catholic Social teachings. Read the following Scripture verses with your child (Genesis 1:26-31).

Discuss what it means to be created in God's own image.

What does this reading tell us about God?

What does it mean that humans are created in God's image?

Name a quality in yourself that is of God's image

Jeremiah also tells us "The word of the LORD came to me: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.'" Each and every human being, from the moment of conception, is a child of God. Discuss the Church's stance on pro-life issues with your child. (Refer to the links on the next page for resources.)

The Catholic Church teaches that because of this dignity we are called to protect and defend all human life at every stage and in every condition. Many of the problems we see in the world today arise from a failure to protect and respect the human dignity of all persons.

Sins against LIFE include: abortion, bullying, child abuse, euthanasia, kidnapping, infanticide, murder, pollution, racism, slavery, suicide, torture, waste, war.

Discussion Starters:

- Talk about the story of the Good Samaritan. Jesus tells us to love our neighbor. Who is our neighbor?
- Parents ask your child to tell you how they can treat everyone they meet with dignity and respect?
- As a family, talk about how our decisions have consequences that affect others.
- Have each member of your family name a quality in his or her self that is of God's image.
- Talk to your child about what they might do if someone was getting picked on or bullied at school.

Read Scripture verses that support this Catholic Social teaching. Discuss what God's Word calls you to do.

Jeremiah 1:5

Romans 12:9-21

1 Cor 3:16

John 15:12-13

Luke 17:33

Matthew 25:31-46

Matthew 18:6-7

Matthew 25:40

Matthew 25:45

Catholic Social Teaching - Living Out Our Faith

Resources Section, Books, Articles, and Websites

Books:

- ***Raising Kids Who Will Make a Difference: Helping Your Family Live with Integrity, Value Simplicity, and Care for Others.*** A book by Susan V. Vogt, released by Loyola Press, 2002.
- ***To Act Justly: Introducing Catholic Social Teaching to Children with Stories and Activities: Through Stories and Activities:*** A Book by Anne E. Neuberger, released by Twenty-Third Publications.
- ***Go and Do Likewise: Catholic Social Teaching in Action.*** A book by Mia Crosthwaite, released by Twenty-Third Publications, 2006.
- ***Love and Responsibility.*** A book by Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II) released by Ignatius Press, 1993.
- ***Theology of the Body for Beginners.*** A book by Christopher West released by Ascension Press, 2009.

Websites:

- www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/
- www.faithfulcitizenship.org/
- <http://thetheologyofthebody.com/information/teens>

Videos:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twg4k5TvJDo&feature=c4-overview&list=UUSdIC73JYstfy3PKvp7WTIA>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7MKdZBiDIU&list=UUSdIC73JYstfy3PKvp7WTIA>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xCcNWf3CZ0>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGRhrP58Ta4>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlhI0lk5e8&feature=c4-overview-vl&list=PL4E5E8DEFF352C7FD>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpIx0VtuQDM&list=PLAB7t86OIZZXuXxSCdZ4PQwscI03aZHt->
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAab_hQ-bjE&feature=c4-overview-vl&list=PL9EBE6CF7FB499C6I

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

What is the Catechism of the Catholic Church?

A catechism is a text which contains the fundamental Christian truths formulated in a way that facilitates their understanding. The Catechism of the Catholic Church conveys the essential and fundamental content of Catholic faith and morals in a complete and summary way. It is a positive, objective and declarative exposition of Catholic doctrine

The content of the Catechism is faithful to Apostolic Tradition, Scripture and the Magisterium. It incorporates the heritage of the Doctors, Fathers, and Saints of the Church and illuminates with the light of faith, contemporary situations, problems and questions. Sources for teachings are listed in each section.

The entire text of the Catechism of the Catholic Church can be found online at the USCCB site: <http://old.usccb.org/catechism/text/entiretoc1.shtml>

For whom is the Catechism intended?

The Catechism is intended, first of all, for bishops as teachers of the faith and pastors of the Church. They have the first responsibility in catechesis. Through the bishops, the Catechism is addressed to editors of catechisms, priests, catechists and all others responsible for catechesis, including parents. It is useful for all the faithful. The Holy Father has said that the Catechism "is offered to all the faithful who want to understand better the inexhaustible riches of salvation."

The USCCB published **The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults** in 2006 to give the faithful (parents and lay people) a guide to understanding the catechism better. It is published in a study format (independent of group study).

Where can we find information about Christian Living in the Catechism of the Catholic Church?

The Catechism is arranged in four parts. Content regarding Christian Living can be found in Part Three. The Catechism is divided into the following parts:

The Profession of Faith (Creed)

The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (Sacraments/Mass)

Life in Christ (Christian Living)

Christian Prayer

What does it mean when I see CCC and a number next to some teaching of the catechism in my child's books, or in the home lessons?

CCC stands for Catechism of the Catholic Church. The number is the number of the paragraph of the teaching in the catechism. For example:

CCC 1133

The Holy Spirit prepares the faithful for the sacraments by the Word of God and the faith which welcomes that word in well-disposed hearts. Thus the sacraments strengthen faith and express it.

This is paragraph number 1133 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. All paragraphs are numbered, and easily distinguishable in the text.

Christian Living

Some Catechism Connections

THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

1700 The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God; it is fulfilled in his vocation to divine beatitude. It is essential to a human being freely to direct himself to this fulfillment. By his deliberate actions, the human person does, or does not, conform to the good promised by God and attested by moral conscience. Human beings make their own contribution to their interior growth; they make their whole sentient and spiritual lives into means of this growth. With the help of grace they grow in virtue, avoid sin, and if they sin they entrust themselves as did the prodigal son to the mercy of our Father in heaven. In this way they attain to the perfection of charity.

1703 Endowed with "a spiritual and immortal" soul, the human person is "the only creature on earth that God has willed for its own sake." From his conception, he is destined for eternal beatitude.

1721 God put us in the world to know, to love, and to serve him, and so to come to paradise. Beatitude makes us "partakers of the divine nature" and of eternal life. With beatitude, man enters into the glory of Christ and into the joy of the Trinitarian life.

1795 "Conscience is man's most secret core, and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths".

1796 Conscience is a judgment of reason by which the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act.

1802 The Word of God is a light for our path. We must assimilate it in faith and prayer and put it into practice. This is how moral conscience is formed.

1839 The moral virtues grow through education, deliberate acts, and perseverance in struggle. Divine grace purifies and elevates them.

1841 There are three theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity. They inform all the moral virtues and give life to them.

1842 By faith, we believe in God and believe all that he has revealed to us and that Holy Church proposes for our belief.

1843 By hope we desire, and with steadfast trust await from God, eternal life and the graces to merit it.

1844 By charity, we love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for love of God. Charity, the form of all the virtues, "binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Col 3:14).

1845 The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon Christians are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

1985 The New Law is a law of love, a law of grace, a law of freedom.

2048 The precepts of the Church concern the moral and Christian life united with the liturgy and nourished by it.

2133 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deut 6:5).

2319 Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of the living and holy God.

2392 "Love is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being".

St. Jude Explore Four

Life of the Parish Events and Opportunities that assist in the learning about Christian Living

- Peace and Social Justice Ministry
- Respect Life Ministry
- Sharefest
- Rosary for Life - Wednesdays (7pm) and Saturdays (8am) *(also found under Christian Prayer)*
- Caritas
- Daybreak Ministry
- Environmental Ministry
- Meal Angel Project - ongoing - email: mealangels@gmail.com
- Feed My Starving Children - ongoing
- Rake and Bag
- Giving Tree
- Local Service Opportunities
- Men's Ministry Learning Events
- Mission Trips
- Christ Renews His Parish
- Parish Mission