

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

ELEMENTARY COURSE OF STUDY

GRADES 4, 6, 8

SCRIPTURE BASE

The students will:

- Grade 4** use some passages from the New Testament (Christian Scripture) to show how the Church's teaching on social justice is rooted in Scripture; e.g., Mk 6:30-44, Lk 10: 25-37, Lk 16: 19-31.
- 6** use some passages from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scripture) to show how the Church's teaching on social justice is rooted in Scripture; e.g., Gen 1-2: 4, Dt. 30, Micah 6, Lev. 25.
- 8** use some passages from the New Testament (Christian Scripture) to show how the Church's teaching on social justice is rooted in Scripture; e.g., Lk 4: 16-19, Lk 6: 20-26, Lk 21: 1-4.
- 4** know that all service and ministry find their source in the life and mission of Jesus, as revealed in the Scriptures.
- 8** know that all service and ministry find their source in the life and mission of Jesus, as revealed in the Scriptures.
- 6** be able to evaluate and respond to current issues in light of Gospel values.
- 8** be able to evaluate and respond to current issues (such as life issues, sexual morality, social injustice, etc.) in light of Gospel values.

SACRAMENTAL BASE

The students will:

- 4** know that Baptism calls them to witness a new way of life; to spread the Good News to all peoples.
- 4** know that prayer helps them to know God's will and guides them to follow it.
- 8** know that Baptism and Confirmation call them to witness a new way of life and to spread the Good News to all peoples and nations
- 8** realize that, for the baptized person, living the Christian life includes involvement with, and being of service to, others.

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The students will:

- 4** know that service, sharing and witness are a part of the total mission of the Church and the responsibility of each member.
- 6** know that service, sharing and witness are a part of the total mission of the Church and the responsibility of each member.
- 4** recognize and experience service as an essential element of discipleship.

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- 6** recognize and experience service as an essential element of discipleship.
- 8** recognize and experience service as an essential element of discipleship.
- 8** understand that the very nature of the Church’s mission demands prayer and action on behalf of justice.

- 4** realize that Christian responsibility includes daily concern for missions in the world through prayer and giving.
- 6** realize that Christian responsibility includes daily concern for missions in the world through prayer and giving.
- 8** realize that Christian responsibility includes daily concern for missions in the world through prayer and giving.

BASIS IN TRADITION

Primary Principle

The students will:

- 4** know that the primary principle of Catholic social teaching is “The Life and Dignity of the Human Person.”
- 6** know and understand that the primary principle of Catholic social teaching is “The Life and Dignity of the Human Person.”
- 8** know and explain why the primary principle of Catholic social teaching is “The Life and Dignity of the Human Person.”

- 4** know and be able to apply the principle of “The Life and Dignity of the Human Person” to situations where life is not respected; e.g., pollution, child abuse, animal cruelty, excluding others, etc.
- 6** know and be able to apply the principle of “The Life and Dignity of the Human Person” to situations where life is not respected; e.g., abortion, immoral sexual activity, prejudice (race, religion, gender), abuse, bullying, harassment, teasing, drug/alcohol abuse, suicide, etc.
- 8** know and be able to apply the principle of “The Life and Dignity of the Human Person” to situations where life is not respected; e.g., abortion, capital punishment, suicide, immoral sexual activity, drug/alcohol abuse, verbal abuse, euthanasia, etc.

Other Principles (cf. Handout #1 “Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching”)

The students will:

- 6** know the principle of the “Call to Family, Community and Participation”; discuss the family as an authentic Church community and the role of families in serving the mission of the Church; e.g., stewardship, missions, family prayer, participation in parishes and community.

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- 8** know the principle of the “Call to Family, Community and Participation”; discuss the role of all Christians in forming a peaceful and just community.

- 4** know that from the principle of “The Life and Dignity of the Human Person” flows the principle of “Rights and Responsibilities”; e.g., the rights to food, shelter, clothing, etc.; the responsibility to family members and the responsibility to respect the rights of others.
- 6** understand that from the principle of “The Life and Dignity of the Human Person” flows the principle of “Rights and Responsibilities”; e.g., the rights to the basic necessities of life, to education, to employment, etc. and the responsibilities to families, schools, communities and to respect the rights of others.
- 8** apply the principle of “Rights and Responsibilities” to current times.

- 4** know the principle of the “Option for the Poor and Vulnerable”; realize that Christian responsibility includes special care for those who are poor and vulnerable.
- 6** know the principle of the “Option for the Poor and Vulnerable”; understand and explain why Christian responsibility includes special care for those who are poor and vulnerable.
- 8** know the principle of the “Option for the Poor and Vulnerable”; realize that Christian responsibility includes a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable and working toward freedom from oppression.
- 8** know the principle of the “Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers”; know that all work has dignity and each worker must be respected.

- 4** know the principle of “Solidarity”; recognize the interdependence of the human family; person to person.
- 6** know the principle of “Solidarity”; recognize the interdependence of the human family: person to person, and nation to nation.

- 4** know the principle of “Care for God’s Creation”; realize that all of the earth is God’s creation and people are responsible to care for it.
- 6** know the principle of “Care for God’s Creation”; know that Catholic tradition states that one way to respect God as Creator is to be good stewards of creation.

- 4** be able to apply the following principles of Catholic social teaching: “Life and Dignity of the Human Person,” “Rights and Responsibilities,” “Option or the Poor and Vulnerable,” “Solidarity,” and “Care for God’s Creation.”
- 6** be able to apply the following principles of Catholic social teaching: “Life and Dignity of the Human Person,” “Call to Family, Community and Participation,” “Rights and Responsibilities,” “Option for the Poor and Vulnerable,” “Solidarity,” and “Care for God’s Creation.”

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- 8** be able to identify, discuss, and apply all seven principles of Catholic social teaching.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The students will:

- 4** be familiar with the ministry of:
- St. Francis of Assisi (Care for God's Creation)
 - Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini (Solidarity)
 - St. Charles Lwanga (Rights and Responsibilities)
 - modern-day role models, such as Mother Teresa, Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II. (Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, Solidarity)
- 6** be familiar with the ministry of:
- St. Martin de Porres (Option for the Poor and Vulnerable)
 - St. Paul (Rights and Responsibilities)
 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary (Option for the Poor and Vulnerable)
 - modern-day role models, such as the Women of El Salvador (Jean Donovan, Sr. Dorothy Kazel, Sr. Ita Ford, and Sr. Maura Clarke); Bishop Oscar Romero (Call to Family, Community and Participation)
- 8** be familiar with the ministry of:
- St. Vincent de Paul (Option for the Poor and Vulnerable)
 - St. Peter Claver (The Life and Dignity of the Human Person)
 - St. Hildegard of Bingen (Care for God's Creation)
 - St. Isidore (Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers)
 - modern-day role models such as Dorothy Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. (Call to Family, Community and Participation)
- 8** study and understand some of the issues and the Church documents which address these topics: discrimination, poverty, economic injustice, ecological injustice, war and arming for war, world-wide hunger issues.

(See Handout #2 "The Church Speaks Out on Social Teaching" for titles of documents addressing Catholic Social Teaching).

PERSONAL APPLICATION

The students will:

- 4** recognize the talents they have and how these may be shared in the service of others in family and parish.
- 6** recognize the talents they have and how these may be shared in the service of others in family, parish, local and national community.
- 8** recognize the talents they have and how these may be shared in the service of others in family, parish, local and national community and globally.
- 4** pray for others in need so that God and people will help them.
- 6** pray that God will give them the courage to respond appropriately to the

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- needs of others.
- 8** pray that God will give them the courage to respond appropriately to the needs of others.

- 4** perform service projects based on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. (cf. Service Handout #3)
- 6** perform service projects based on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. (cf. Service Handout #3)
- 8** Perform service projects based on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. (cf. Service Handout #3)

- 4** reflect on their experience of service.
- 6** develop realistic expectations of service and action and reflect on their experiences
- 8** know the difference between service (charity) and justice (changing unjust systems and institutions).
- 8** develop realistic expectations and reflect on student experiences in the context of the broader perspective: community, diocese, state, nation.

- 4** know some non-violent responses to situations and be able to apply them.
- 6** know some non-violent responses to situations and be able to apply them.
- 8** know some non-violent responses to situations and be able to apply them.

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