

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING ELEMENTARY COURSE OF STUDY GRADE 8

SCRIPTURE BASE

The students will:

- 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.
- know that all service and ministry find their source in the life and mission of Jesus, as revealed in the Scriptures.
- 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:

- 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
- 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:

- recognize and experience service as an essential element of discipleship.
- understand that the very nature of the Church’s mission demands prayer and action on behalf of justice.
- realize that Christian responsibility includes daily concern for missions in the world through prayer and giving.

BASIS IN TRADITION

Primary Principle

The students will:

- know and explain why the primary principle of Catholic social teaching is “The Life and Dignity of the Human Person.”

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- 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:

- know the principle of the “Call to Family, Community and Participation”; discuss the role of all Christians in forming a peaceful and just community.
- apply the principle of “Rights and Responsibilities” to current times.
- 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.
- 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.
- be able to identify, discuss, and apply all seven principles of Catholic social teaching.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The students will:

- 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)
- 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.

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

PERSONAL APPLICATION

The students will:

- 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.
- pray that God will give them the courage to respond appropriately to the needs of others.
- perform service projects based on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. (cf. service handout #3)
- know the difference between service (charity) and justice (changing unjust systems and institutions).
- develop realistic expectations and reflect on student experiences in the context of the broader perspective: community, diocese, state, nation.
- know some non-violent responses and situations and be able to apply them.

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**“Catholic Social Teaching” is also taught in these grades: 4. 6.
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