

RESOURCE LIST FOR  
THE 7 KEY THEMES OF  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

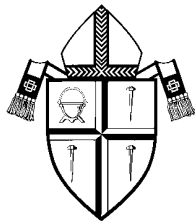
If you have any questions or comments about this material or additional resources that would be beneficial to the list please feel free to contact us.  
(see below)



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"Being a believer means that one lives a certain way – walking with the Lord, doing justice, loving kindness, and living peaceably among all people.  
Christian discipleship means practicing what Jesus preached."

– US Bishops, *Everyday Christianity*



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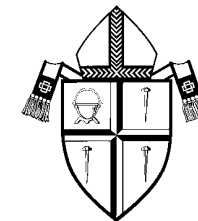
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RESOURCE LIST FOR  
THE 7 KEY THEMES OF  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL  
TEACHING

"For the Catholic faithful,  
the commitment to build peace and justice  
is not secondary  
but essential."

— Pope John Paul II  
*World Day of Peace Message 2001*



*Provided by the Office for  
Youth Ministry*  
DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO



## 7. Care for God's Creation

"We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored" (Living Justice, Proclaiming Peace p.12).



- **Floresta:** <http://www.floresta.org/>
- **Environmental Justice: Caring for God's Creation**  
<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp>
- **Catholic Educators Resource Center:** [http://catholiceducation.org/directory/Current\\_Issues/Environment/](http://catholiceducation.org/directory/Current_Issues/Environment/)
- **St. Francis of Assisi, Earth Day info:** <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Francis/earthday.asp>



**Global Climate Change**  
**A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good**  
No. 5-431, 28 pp., \$3.50

**From Stockholm to Johannesburg**  
**An Historical Overview of the Concern of the Holy See for the Environment, 1972-2002**  
No. 352-9, 154 pp., \$8.00

**"And God Saw That It Was Good"**  
*Catholic Theology and the Environment*  
No. 5-089, 348 pp., \$24.95

**Let the Earth Bless the Lord: God's Creation and Our Responsibility**  
*A Catholic Approach to the Environment*  
No. 5-085, 44 pp., \$4.95

**Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All Creation**  
No. 032-X, 53 pp., \$7.95

**Renewing the Face of the Earth**  
No. 766-9, 80 pp., \$6.95

**Renewing the Earth**  
**An Invitation to Reflection and Action on Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching**  
No. 468-6, 20 pp., \$3.50

**The Ecological Crisis**  
**A Common Responsibility**  
No. 332-9, 14 pp., \$2.95

*All titles available from USCCB*

### Search the Internet for information

With the capacity of the Internet there is so much information one can gain through looking over websites and using search engines. Type in your subject in a search engine and most likely you will come up with hundreds if not thousands of hits.

### Network with other youth groups

Find out what other youth are doing in their groups. You can get many important and helpful connections and ideas from your peers. Find out what works for them, what has been challenging and where they get their information.

### Be prepared to answer others questions or know where to find answers if you don't know the answer yourself.

Knowing the topic you are teaching about is important. You must be comfortable with the topic and educate yourself on it first before offering to teach others. If you cannot answer someone's questions have resources for them. It is helpful to pass out a list of websites and books for them to research on their own.

### Educate Others:

#### Bring a speaker to your school/community

Many of the organizations listed in the booklet have speakers who will come to your group event. Many times they require a stipend fee (depending on where they are traveling from). Bringing in someone new is often very beneficial to the group. It is fun for your youth group to listen to "an expert" on the topic who is new to the group, and gives you a break from having to do all the work.

#### Set up an information table

Set up a table at youth group or after mass that has visuals (posters, pictures, video, interactive materials, etc). Pass out flyers that give information about your topic and resources for them to learn more. Have them sign petitions and get involved in service projects.

#### Host a debate at your school/community

Have your youth group or school debate on a chosen topic. Set up teams to research both sides of the debate. Even if you are for one side, debating on the other side helps to give you a better understanding of the topic, and makes your argument even stronger.

#### Show a movie

Movies are an entertaining and easy way to get youth interested and involved.

#### Set up a panel of speakers at your school/community

Gather a group of "experts" to discuss and answer questions about the topic at hand.

#### Host an "Awareness" day/week

Combine some or all of the above ideas to create an entertaining and enlightening program for your youth group, church or school.

## Additional resources

### Work Camps

These camps are where teens can participate in social justice activities like painting & building homes, and evangelize to others the message of the gospel.

- <http://www.heartworkcamp.com>
- <http://www.groupworkcamps.com>

**Social Justice Books** **Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions**  
*Reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops.*  
English: No. 5-281, 32 pp., \$3.95

**In All Things Charity**  
*A Pastoral Challenge for the New Millennium*  
English: No. 5-358, 56 pp., \$5.95

**In the Footsteps of Jesus**  
*Catholic Social Teaching at Work Today*  
English: No. 5-444, 28 min., \$14.95

**Leader's Guide to Sharing Catholic Social Teaching**  
No. 5-366, 64 pp., \$5.95



# DONATE

time, talent & treasure

## Get petitions signed

Getting petitions signed shows that many people are against the injustice that is occurring. Get as many signatures as you can. With permission stand outside of mass, at youth group, church or school events to get petitions signed.

## Contact elected officials

You can write letters, e-mail, make a phone call or show up in person. Contact anyone from international officials, the President, local government officials, etc. They need to hear your opinions because your voice matters. The most effective way to be heard is to show up in person. The next best thing is a phone call or e-mail because a letter sent by mail has to go through a long process (sometimes months) of checking that it is safe to be passed on to the official.

## Volunteer time & talents

Many organizations need teens to donate their time & talents in so many different ways. You can answer phones, pass out educational material, help build a home, feed the homeless, tutor students, make posters, write pen-pal letters, the list goes on and on.

## Donate your treasure

\$ can help to pay for education, housing, food, clothing, and much more for the less fortunate. It can also help organizations to keep running by paying for materials, office space, phone bills, postage, etc.

## Contact organizations

To learn more about what the organization does to work against social injustice contact them by e-mail or phone. Most websites have an e-mail & phone number on their website under **contact**. Find out if they have speakers you can host, fundraisers to participate in, or volunteer opportunities for teens. Network with them to get your community or school involved.

# BE AN EXAMPLE

Be an example in word and deed.

How you speak and how you act is an example to others.

What music you listen to, movies you watch, clothing you choose to wear are all reflections of yourself and your values.

Respect the human dignity of yourself and others.



## 6. Solidarity

“We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that ‘loving our neighbor’ has global dimensions in an interdependent world” (Living Justice, Proclaiming Peace p.12).

**The following are resources to help your youth group include all walks of life into your church services and youth group activities and to embrace the diversity of God’s creation.**



### Intellectually Handicapped

- Special Olympics: <http://www.specialolympics.org>

### Disabled

- National Catholic Partnership on Disability: [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org)

### Blind

- American Foundation for the Blind: <http://www.afb.org/>

### Deaf

- International Catholic Deaf Association: <http://members.aol.com/Kgkush/>
- Signing the Cross (Resource for Deaf Catholics in San Diego): <http://www.deafmass.org/>

### Hispanic

- Hispanic Affairs USCCB: <http://www.usccb.org/hispanicaffairs>

### African American

- The National Black Catholic Conference: <http://www.nbccongress.org/>
- Secretariat for African-American Catholics: USCCB: <http://www.usccb.org/saac>

### Asian

- Asian Catholics USCCB: <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/pcmr/asianpac.shtml>

### Immigrants & Refugees

- <http://www.usccb.org/mrs>
- <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org>



**Opening Doors of Welcome and Justice to Parishioners with Disabilities**  
*A Parish Resource Guide*  
No. 5-604, 64 pp., \$7.95

**Welcoming Parishioners with Disabilities**  
No. 5-606, 8-panel brochure, 50/\$10.00

**Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities**  
No. 5-425, 24 pp., \$3.50

**Strangers No Longer**  
No. 5-529, 56 pp., \$4.95

**Called to Welcome the Stranger Among Us**  
English: No. 5-404, 8-panel brochure, 25/\$12.00  
\*available in many languages

**Welcoming the Stranger Among Us**  
*A Prayer for Hospitality*  
No. 5-460, cards, 50/\$10.00

**Who Are My Sisters and Brothers?**  
*Reflections for Understanding and Welcoming Immigrants and Refugees*  
No. 5-057, 64 pp., \$5.95

*All titles available from USCCB*





- **Catholic Charities:** <http://www.ccdsd.org/>
- **Food First:** <http://www.foodfirst.org/>
- **Free the Children:** <http://www.freethechildren.org/>
- **Pax Christi USA:** <http://www.paxchristiusa.org/>
- **CRS Catholic Relief Services:** <http://www.crs.org/>
- **Heifer International:** <http://www.heifer.org/>
- **The Hunger Site:** <http://www.thehungersite.com/>
- **Bread for the World:** <http://www.bread.org/>
- **Poverty USA of Catholic Campaign for Human Development:** [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org)
- **30 Hour Famine:** <http://www.30hourfamine.org>
- **Jesuit Volunteers:** <http://www.jesuitvolunteers.org/>
- **Food for the Poor:** <http://www.foodforthe poor.com/>
- **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:** [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

there you will find the following departments:

- \* Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- \* Child & Youth Protection
- \* Family, Women Laity & Youth
- \* Faithful Citizenship
- \* Social Development & World Peace



People Like Us  
No. 5-186, 40 pp., \$2.50

Scripture Guide  
No. 5-229, 12 pp.

A Justice Prayer Book  
No. 5-231, 24 pp.

Novena for Justice and Peace  
*Faith Sharing*  
No. 5-237, 12 pp.

Shaping the Tradition, Sharing the Future  
No. 5-451, 28 pp.

A Place at the Table  
No. 5-519, 32 pp.

Preferential Option for and with the Poor (Book IV)  
No. 5-191, 28 pp.

Solidarity with the Poor (Book V)  
No. 5-192, 28 pp.

A Catholic Framework for Economic Life  
Poster: No. 5-137,

Faithful Citizenship  
*A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*  
No. 5-561, 40 pp.

All titles available from the USCCB  
1-800-235-8722

- ✚ Use kind words
- ✚ Speak kindly about others
- ✚ If someone is in need, help them or find someone who is equipped to help them
- ✚ Recycle & be energy efficient
- ✚ Donate time, talent & treasure to good causes
- ✚ Be active in your community
- ✚ Don't purchase from companies who use immoral labor practices
- ✚ Don't purchase music, clothing, videos, etc. that are offensive to the dignity of the human person

**"Teens are the fastest growing consumer demographic, spending billions (\$150 billion to be exact) of dollars each year, and thus commanding the rapt attention of many companies and advertisers."**  
(<http://www210.pair.com/udticg/lessonplans/consumerism/>)

**"Catholicism does not call us to abandon the world but to help shape it. This does not mean leaving worldly tasks and responsibilities but transforming them...Social justice and the common good are built up or torn down day by day in the countless decisions and choices we make."**  
– US Bishops, *Everyday Christianity*



**The Office for Youth Ministry  
& our  
Resource Library  
are open**

**M - F from 8:30 to 4:30.**

We have books, pamphlets,  
videos, & cd's for you to borrow.

**"We should not serve the poor like they were Jesus. We should serve the poor because they are Jesus."**

– Mother Teresa  
(*Living Justice, Proclaiming Peace 93*)



## 1. Life & Dignity of the Human Person

“The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of moral vision for society. ... In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and assisted suicide. The value of human life is being threatened by increasing use of the death penalty. 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” (Living Justice, Proclaiming Peace p.12).

- **Secretariat for Pro-Life USCCB:** <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/>
- **Second Look Project:** <http://www.secondlookproject.org>
- **Feminists for Life:** <http://www.feministsforlife.org>
- **Death Penalty Focus:** <http://www.deathpenalty.org>
- **Life Perspectives:** <http://www.lifeperspectives.com>
- **Rachel's Hope California:** <http://www.rachelshope.org/>
- **Embracing our Dying:** <http://www.embracingourdying.com/>
- **Catholics Against capital punishment:** <http://www.cacp.org>
- **Human Life International:** <http://www.hli.org/>
- **National Committee for Human life Amendment:** <http://nchla.org/>
- **National Right to Life:** <http://www.nrlc.org/>
- **National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing:** <http://www.noparh.org/>
- **American Association of Suicidology:** <http://www.suicidology.org>
- **Teen Challenge:** <http://www.teenchallenge.com>
- **Pure Love Club:** <http://www.pureloveclub.com/>
- **Gravity Teen:** <http://www.gravityteen.com>



### Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities

*A Campaign in Support of Life*  
No. 5-463, 52 pp., \$2.50

### Faithful for Life

*A Moral Reflection*  
No. 5-019, 24 pp., \$3.50

### A Challenge to American Catholics

English: No. 5-300, 40 pp., \$3.50

*All titles available from the USCCB*  
1-800-235-8722

### Pro-Life Publications & Resources Catalog

From the USCCB  
to order call toll free  
1 (866) 582-0943

## 2. Call to Family, Community, & Participation

“The person is not only sacred, but also social. How we organize our society in economics and politics, in law and policy directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. The family is the central social institution that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable” (Living Justice, Proclaiming Peace p.12).



## 3. Rights & Responsibilities

“The Catholic Tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities to one another, our families, and to the larger society” (Living Justice, Proclaiming Peace p.12).

## 4. Option for the Poor & Vulnerable

“A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first” (Living Justice, Proclaiming Peace p.12).

## 5. The Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers

“The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected – the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative” (Living Justice, Proclaiming Peace p.12).



- **Catholic Campaign for Human Development of the USCCB:** <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/>
- **Institute for Peace & Justice:** <http://www.ipj-ppj.org/>
- **Childhelp USA:** <http://www.childhelp.org/>
- **United for a Fair Economy:** <http://www.faireconomy.org/>
- **American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations:** <http://www.aflcio.org/corporateamerica/paywatch/>
- **National Interfaith Worker Justice:** <http://www.iwj.org/index.html>

**“If you want peace, work for justice.”**

Pope Paul VI, 1970 World Day of Peace Message  
World Day of Peace Message

