



# Catholic Social Teaching

## WHAT IS CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING ?

- the examples set by Jesus Christ
- Papal encyclicals
- Gospel message
- Letters from the US Bishops
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- All of the above

ANSWER: "f". All of the Above

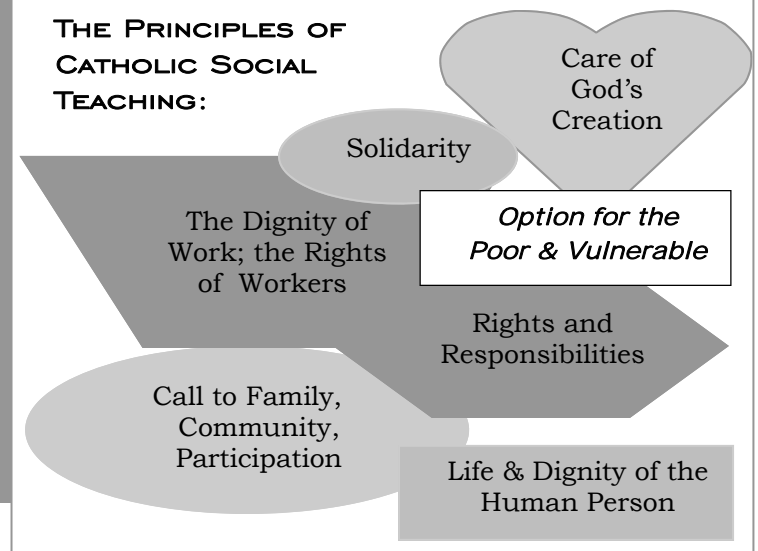
## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IS ALSO:

- Our attempt to make the reign of God a reality
- Principles, guidelines, and criteria to action
- Our response to the signs of the times we live in
- Our assessment...analysis of our contemporary situation

Poverty is the worst form of violence.

Gandhi

## THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING:



## THIS MONTH'S FOCUS:

### Option for Poor and 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.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- We are reminded that
  - ✠ Christ was born poor
  - ✠ Christ lived poor
  - ✠ Christ was always with the poor
  - ✠ Christ died poor
- Latin American Bishops taught us "we must have a preferential option for the poor."
- Helping the poor is not optional!

"It is not one of our problems today that we have separated ourselves for the poor and the wounded, and the suffering. We have too much time to discuss and theorize and have lost the yearning for God which comes when we are faced with sufferings of people.

Jean Vanier, Founder, L'Arche Communities

LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEXT PRINCIPLE