

## Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation

### Chapter I

## INTRODUCTION

Catholic Social Teaching may be found:

- Papal documents
- Documents of Vatican II
- Other official documents of the Church

Catholic Social Teaching (CST):

- gives definition and meaning to the Christian life through the Church
- cornerstone is upholding human dignity

## CST

CST basic principles:

- influence of the Gospel
- contemporary social life
- body of teaching set out in a gradual and timely way

## CST cont

- Christ identified himself with his "least ones"

(Mt 25:40). "As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me"

### CST cont

Death and Resurrection of Christ:

- call by God to conversion
- love of one another
- perfected to the point of a voluntary sharing of material goods.

### CST cont

Sum of whole of the Christian life

- faith effecting love
- service of neighbor
- fulfillment of the demands of justice.

### CST cont

- Church received the mission of preaching the Gospel message from Christ
- call to turn away from sin
- to the love of the Father
- universal kinship
- consequent demand for justice in the world.

### CST cont

- Three Pillars:
- Human Dignity
- Common Good
- Subsidiarity and Solidarity

### Seven themes of the social teachings: From USCCB

- Life and dignity of the human person
- Call to family, community, and participation
- Rights and responsibilities
- Option for the poor and vulnerable
- Dignity and rights of workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God's creation

### Seven Themes cont

Requires maturity:

- Of person
- Of Faith
- Of SFO vocation
- To overcome the pettiness
- To rise to the challenge
- To reach out with the love of Christ to all.

### The Fourth Commandment

- **Honor your father and mother that your days may be long in the land which the Lords God gives you.**

### The Fourth Commandment

- Expressed in positive terms of duties
- Introduces the subsequent commandments:
  - marriage
  - earthly goods
  - respect for life
  - speech
- Constitutes foundations of the social doctrines of the Church

## The Seventh Commandment

- **You shall not steal.**

## The Seventh Commandment cont

- Forbids unjustly taking or keeping the goods of one's neighbor
- Wronging him in any way with respect to his goods
- Commands justice and charity:
  - care of earthly goods
  - fruits of men's labor

## The Seventh Commandment cont

The common good

- Requires respect:
  - for the universal destination of goods
  - for the right to private property
- Strives to order this world's goods:
  - to God
  - to fraternal charity

## The Seventh Commandment cont

St. John Chrysostom:

- "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs."
- "The demands of justice must be satisfied first of all; that which is already due in justice is not to be offered as a gift of charity" <sup>ccc</sup>

### **The Seventh Commandment cont**

Works of mercy:

- charitable actions to aid our neighbor
- spiritual and bodily necessities

Spiritual works of mercy:

- Instructing and advising
- Consoling and comforting
- forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently

### **The Seventh Commandment cont**

Corporal works of mercy:

- Feeding the hungry
- Sheltering the homeless
- Clothing the naked
- Visiting the sick and imprisoned
- Burying the dead
- Giving alms to the poor:
  - chief witness to fraternal charity
  - work of justice pleasing to God

### **The Seventh Commandment cont**

#### **Respect for the integrity of creation**

- dominion over inanimate and other living beings not absolute

Limited by:

- concern for the quality of neighbor's life
- generations to come

Requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation

### **In Terms of the Rule**

Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) exists:

- To bring about an awareness
- To transform the life of the Secular Franciscan
- Gospel effect on the world and our society.

## Reflection on Vocation

Candidates respond to their vocation

- We can suppose that:
- There is a keener awareness of God's presence and power in our lives which dictates our actions;
- There is a hunger for deepening our relationship with the Divine;

## Reflection on Vocation cont

- There is an ability to make the right choices out of a faith conviction;
- The ability to reconcile is an integral part of one's life;
- Imitation of Jesus in His compassion becomes part of our nature;
- We become people of sure and certain hope.

## Reflection on Vocation cont

Our being, our Franciscan essence, springs forth from our many and continual conversions:

- reach perfection:
- use their strength as a gift from Christ
- follow in his footsteps
- conform themselves to his image

## Reflection on Vocation cont

- Seek the will of the Father in all things
- Devote themselves to the glory of God
- Service of their neighbor
- Holiness

### **Two-fold Approach**

First intention of JPIC

- Personal conversion
- Work with other SFO
  - Franciscan Family
  - whole Church
  - all people of good will

### **Two-fold Approach cont**

Second intention of JPIC:

- Bring gospel values to all people
- Courageous initiatives
- Changes in society at every level

### **Two-fold Approach cont**

World problems

- Immediate need
- Far reaching cause
- Pathways to conversion and blessing

### **Two-fold Approach cont**

Both here-and –now and larger needs  
require justice and charity

Pope Paul VI reminds us:

“Justice is the minimum of charity.”

### Mission Statement of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation

- *The mission of JPIC is to assist Professed Secular Franciscans as they reflect on their relationship with God as manifested in the fruits of conversion in their lives.*

### Mission Statement cont

- *This with special regard to the daily choices made in the areas of justice, peace making*
- *and respect for all created things and people;*
- *as brothers and sisters of penance,*
- *bringing life to the Gospel and the Gospel to life.*

### Goals of JPIC:

- To foster an atmosphere in fraternity, the privileged place
- To reinforce the appreciation of the dignity of the human person

### Goals of JPIC: cont

- To assist in the living out of obedience to the common good as intended by God
- To strengthen the professed Secular Franciscans' commitment to solidarity with all of Creation