

THE IMMACULATA

LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

“Love One Another”

Taking Up The Mission of Jesus

Last week in Part 1 of this series, our Bishops told us that our social mission is an integral part of what makes us Catholic. As followers of Jesus, we are called to take up his mission of bringing good news to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind, and to set the downtrodden free. Catholics are “to ‘hunger and thirst for justice,’ and to be ‘peacemakers’ in our own communities.”

This week we continue to learn what it means to be the salt of the earth and light of the world, drawing lessons from *Communities of Salt & Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish* written by our US Catholic Bishops.

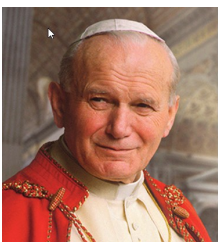
Part 2: The Roots of Parish Social Mission

Evangelization is part our baptismal call, and social justice is integral to evangelization. The two are linked as essential to our Church's mission. The Bishops state that, “we cannot proclaim a gospel we do not live, and we cannot carry out a real social ministry without knowing the Lord and hearing his call to justice and peace. Parish communities must show by their deeds of love and justice that the gospel they proclaim is fulfilled in their actions. This tradition is not empty theory; it challenges our priorities as a nation, our choices as a Church, our values as parishes.”

“The center of our Church's social teaching is the life, dignity, and rights of the human person. We are called in a special way to serve the poor and vulnerable; to build bridges of solidarity among peoples of differing races and nations, languages and abilities, genders and cultures. Family life and work have special places in Catholic social teaching: the rights of the unborn, families, workers, immigrants, and the poor deserve special protection. Our tradition also calls us to show our respect for the Creator by our care for creation and our commitment to work for environmental justice.” These tenets of Catholic tradition offer a framework for the way forward in social ministry, “calling us to concrete works of charity, justice, and peacemaking.”

“Catholic social teaching more than anything else insists that we are one family; it calls us to overcome barriers of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, economic status, and nationality.”

Next week we will conclude our series on the social mission of the parish with Part 3, “Building Bridges of Solidarity.”



Papacy: 1978–2005
Canonized: 2014

Wisdom from Pope John Paul II

“True holiness does not mean a flight from the world; rather, it lies in the effort to incarnate the Gospel in every life...”

Catholic Fraternity of Covenant Communities and Fellowships, Nov. 1996



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WATCH



What’s the vision of Catholic social teaching? In this brief video,

Dr. Meghan J. Clark reflects on that question sharing an answer with Old and New Testament roots.

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READ



Here Fred Kammer, SJ, explains the four over-arching principles of CST.

Fr. Kammer was the executive director of the Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola New Orleans.

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EXPLORE



Our Popes sometimes write letters to us called encyclicals, a longstanding

tradition in our church.

Learn about encyclicals written to help us read the signs of our times and make good decisions.

[Explore now...](#)

*Image courtesy of St. John Paul II National Shrine