

# **Catholic Social Teaching—A Primer**

The Church belongs in politics because whatever affects the human person, community, or environment, is essentially a Christian matter.

Action on behalf of social justice promotes social change in institutions, policies, and systems. Issues involve politics, economics, and culture.

The following principles of Catholic social teaching can help us make decisions about social or political matters.

## **1. The Dignity of the Human Person**

As Catholics, we believe we are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Human dignity comes from God, not from nationality, race, sex, economic status, or any human accomplishment.

## **2. The Call to Live in Community - concern for the common good.**

Our participation in the up building of society is both a right and an obligation

## **3. Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person**

Every person has the right to life, to food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, and necessary social services.

## **4. The Dignity of Work**

Workers have basic rights to decent work, to just wages, to form and join unions.

## **5. Option of the Poor and Vulnerable**

Justice of a society is tested by the treatment of the poor.

## **6. Solidarity**

Solidarity implies acceptance and recognition of the fact that we, as a human family, are interdependent.