

Human Dignity:

Every person is made in the image of God and has an inalienable dignity that gives rise to human rights.

People are always more important than things and must never be treated as mere instruments.

All people, all races, and all human cultures, are equal in dignity.

The human family is one because we are all children of the one God.

The Common Good:

We are called to work for social conditions that allow every person and group to meet their needs and achieve their full potential.

Every group in society should take into consideration the rights and legitimate aspirations of other groups, and also the well being of the whole human family.

Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Solidarity:

Human beings are social in their very nature - we reflect the image of a Trinitarian God.

We need each other and can only grow, flourish and achieve our potential in relationship with one another.

Our salvation is tied up with that of each other. We are responsible for one another.

Solidarity is a firm and persevering commitment to the common good.

Subsidiarity:

Decision making should be kept as close as possible to the grassroots - those most directly affected by a decision should have a key say in it.

Larger or more overarching groups should only get involved to assist individuals and smaller groups if they are unable to achieve something by themselves.

Sometimes the efforts of smaller groups need to be coordinated for the sake of the common good.