

## Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

**Human Dignity**—All people are sacred, made in the image and likeness of God. People do not lose dignity because of disability, poverty, age, lack of success or race.

**Respect for Human Life**—The human person is both sacred and social. We realize our dignity and rights in relationships with others. We are called to respect all of God's gifts of creation, to be good stewards of the earth and each other.

**Rights and Responsibilities**—People have a fundamental right to life, food, shelter, health care, education and employment. Corresponding to these rights is the duty to respect the rights of others in the wider society and to work for the common good.

**Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**—The poor have the most urgent moral claim on the conscience of the nation. We are called to look at public policy decisions in terms of how they affect the poor.

**The dignity of work and the rights of workers**—People have a right to decent and productive work, fair wages, private property and economic initiative. The economy exists to serve the people.

**Solidarity**—We are one human family. Our responsibilities to each other cross national, racial, economic and ideological differences. We are called to work globally for justice.

**Care for God's Creation**—The goods of the earth are gifts from God. We have a responsibility to care for these goods as stewards and trustee, not as mere consumers and users.

## Season 3

### In the Footsteps of Christ: Bringing Catholic Social Teaching to Life

*Season 3 invites participants to reflect  
on their call and mission to be  
Intentional Disciples of Jesus Christ  
and to act on this call through the lens  
of Catholic Social Teaching.*



Catholic Social Teaching calls believers to both **CHARITY** and **JUSTICE**.

**Charity** and **Justice** have been called the two “feet” of Christian Service. We need both feet to walk the walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

**CHARITY** focuses on the **NEEDS** of people.

**JUSTICE** focuses on the **RIGHTS** of people.

**CHARITY** invites individuals to have a **GENEROUS RESPONSE**.

**JUSTICE** requires **COMMUNAL ACTION** to transform institutional policies, unjust social situations and societal laws.

**The goal is to infuse the values and work of building God’s Reign of justice and peace into our personal lives and back into the world.**

**TRANSFORMATION** plays a big part in Catholic Social Teaching and is a giant step in the footsteps of Jesus.

When we zero in on Paul’s letter to the Galatians (12:20), he so powerfully states: “*I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me,*” we readily recognize that we are to become transformed in Christ so that we no longer live but allow Jesus to totally live through us to transform our souls.

We hopefully grow to recognize that we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, empowering us to do infinitely more than we can ask for or image.



With Season 3 of *Arise Together in Christ*, we will explore our call to walk in the Footsteps of Christ and clarify that which needs to be awakened in our Christian living from day to day.

Our Faith Sharing and discussion will focus on the Church’s principles of Catholic Social Teaching, with

Emphasis on **Acts of Charity** and **Works of Justice**.

Our Baptismal encounter with Christ continues to be a life-giving and personal relationship with Him. We

Nourish it by constantly making a place for Him in our lives and through our Sacramental life in the church.

I am certain that many of you already embrace efforts to meet the wants of the needy in our midst. Season 3 of *Arise Together in Christ* encourages us to join as a united body of parishes and as a Diocese Church to make an impact that reaches beyond individual and which empowers us to transform our parishes and transform the world.

