

Social Justice

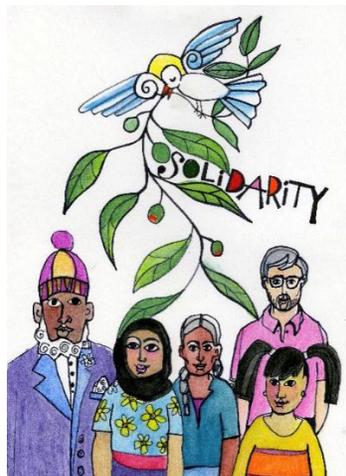
6th Theme of Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity

by Sister Joyce C. Bell IHM, Coordinator of Social Justice

Solidarity “means thinking and acting in terms of community. It means that the lives of all are prior to the appropriation of goods by a few. It also means combatting the structural causes of poverty [and] inequality.” *Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti* It works to create equity and mutuality in human relationships when there is a power imbalance in the larger society. It is not just about offering help to others; it is a matter of justice; it requires a radical change in our thinking that looks to the good of the community, defends the right to life for all, and promotes a just sharing of the earth’s goods. It demands concrete actions to address any dysfunction in a social system that thrives on inequity. It flows from the Catholic Social Principles which reverence the dignity of the human person, establishes the primacy of the common good and affirms our preferential option for the poor. Pope Francis would remind us we are members of a global community with an obligation to care for the needs of the oppressed, marginalized and wounded. “I am because we are.” *U.S. Catholic, “What Is Solidarity?” by Kevin P. Considine, September 1, 2025*

Learn more about this theme of Catholic Social Teaching by viewing this video:

CST 101: Solidarity <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cteMjwOBptw>



Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

1. Life and dignity of the human person
2. Call to family, community and participation
3. Rights and responsibilities
4. Option for the poor and vulnerable
5. The dignity of work and the rights of workers
6. Solidarity
7. Care for Gods’ creation