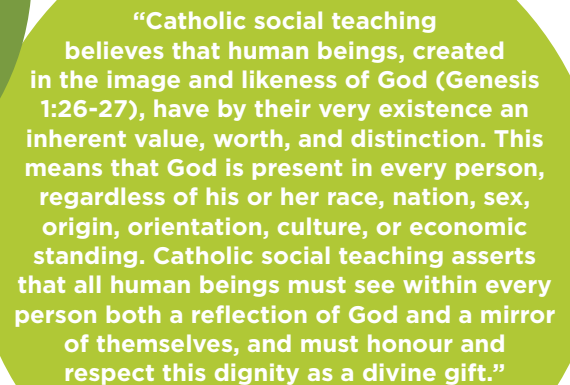


“[Solidarity] is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual because we are all really responsible for all.”

Pope John Paul II



“Catholic social teaching believes that human beings, created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27), have by their very existence an inherent value, worth, and distinction. This means that God is present in every person, regardless of his or her race, nation, sex, origin, orientation, culture, or economic standing. Catholic social teaching asserts that all human beings must see within every person both a reflection of God and a mirror of themselves, and must honour and respect this dignity as a divine gift.”

Daniel Groody

QUICK GUIDE TO CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

At Million Minutes we're inspired and challenged by Catholic social teaching. It lies at the heart of what we're trying to do.

Catholic social teaching can sound a bit scary. At its heart is the basic concept that all people throughout the world are made in God's image and likeness. If we believe that this is true then we are inspired to care for one another, whether or not we know the other person. Catholic social teaching provides some guidance on how to approach situations in the world in which we live. It gives principles to guide how we make decisions about the way we live our life and how we treat others both locally and globally.

Central to Million Minutes are six key principles which guide what we are doing and the projects we will support through the money raised.

The dignity and equality of each human person

Every human being is seen as equal. They're lovingly and beautifully made in God's image and likeness. The other principles flow from this.

The call to participation and community

Human beings exist in relation to one another. We're called to live with others, aware of others, communicating, sharing, enjoying moments of joy and being there together in times of sadness. All of us are called to participate, to join in, to work alongside others for the common good of all.

A preferential option for the poor

Caring for those living in poverty, both in our local neighbourhoods and throughout the world, is a fundamental duty of us all. However, the preferential option for the poor goes further than this. In the Gospels, time and again, Jesus shows a preferential option for the poor - putting them first, giving them

special importance, thinking of their needs and enabling them to have their rightful place in the world. It is not enough simply to think of those living in poverty and try to help them. The voice of people living in poverty needs to be heard. We must enable them to be a full part of the decision making process. We must enable those living in poverty to play a full, active role in society.

The dignity and rights of workers

The right to work, to have a job, to earn money and so support your family are all connected to the dignity of each individual. Catholic social teaching affirms that human beings are not merely a commodity, a tool as part of a process to make things. Human beings are greater than any *thing*. They deserve a fair wage and proper working conditions.

Solidarity among peoples and the promotion of peace

We seek the good of one another, aware of our dependence on one another. Pope John Paul II said, “[Solidarity] is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good” (The social concern of the Church, 38). Peace flows from this. We are called to live honestly with one another, working together in love for the good of all. This is what will lead to true peace.

Care for the earth

God created the earth. Often, the way we treat creation leads to the harm both of it, and of those living on it. Our destruction of the earth for quick gain has repercussions for animals, for ourselves now, and for generations to come. We need to treat the earth with respect.

This is just a taster about Catholic social teaching. More ideas and resources available at catholicsocialteaching.org.uk