



*Forming Consciences  
for  
Faithful Citizenship*



**Catholic Social Teaching Catechesis**

(These may be used as a call to worship to be read before the liturgy.)

**Based on the  
Seven Key Themes of  
Catholic Social Teaching**

August 31 *Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers*

As we celebrate this Labor Day Weekend, we are reminded of the Catholic social teaching that all people have the right to work and to receive a just wage. The teaching also reminds us that workers have the responsibility to provide a fair day's work. May we be mindful of those who are unemployed, those whose rights are exploited, and those who are unjustly compensated. As Christ calls us in today's Gospel to take up his cross and follow him, may we do so by working to eradicate any form of injustice and to do our part to build the Kingdom of God.

September 21 *Family, Community and Participation*

Part of our responsibility as Christians is to participate in community life, both in our families and our larger communities. The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops has suggested that today parish communities reflect upon what it means for us to be faithful citizens in our larger community as we deliberate candidates who seek to hold public office. May we prayerfully consider all the social teachings of the Church as we discern our choices for public officials who will ultimately make policies for the good of society.

See also the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops website ([usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship](http://usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship))

September 28 *Caring for God's Creation*

As Autumn begins, we are given the opportunity to reflect on the Catholic social teaching of caring for God's creation. The Church teaches that it is part of our Christian duty to be good stewards of the earth by living simpler lives and protecting our planet. We are invited to carefully consider our use of goods; our willingness to recycle; and our desire to conserve our natural resources out of respect for God's creation and for those who will come after us.

October 5 ***The Right to Life and the Dignity of the Human Person***

Today is designated as “Respect Life Sunday” in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The Church’s Catholic social teaching is clear that all life is sacred, from conception to death. As Catholics, we are called to uphold this teaching, especially for the most vulnerable, the unborn, the elderly, children, and all who live in less than desirable circumstances. May each of us prayerfully consider this social teaching of the Church and how we might proclaim this teaching more fully with our lives.

October 12 ***Option for the Poor and Vulnerable***

The preferential option for the poor was clearly one of Jesus’ greatest concerns. He often found himself eating and speaking with those who were most in need, those who were marginalized by society. Today’s Gospel reflects this image in the parable of the wedding feast in which the king invites everyone, good and bad, to come to the feast. The Catholic Church has constantly proclaimed this message of *preferential love* for the most vulnerable. May each of us consider prayerfully this social teaching of the Church and how we might open our hearts and our lives to those most in need.

October 19 ***Solidarity***

Throughout the world, the Church celebrates World Mission Sunday. This day reminds us of the Church’s call to solidarity for and with the poor. Solidarity requires us to stand with those who are victims of racism, oppression, disease, and extreme poverty throughout the world. We are called to be peacemakers in a world filled with violence and war. May our eating and drinking of the Body and Blood of Christ strengthen us to be one with the poor and to serve the needs of people everywhere.

October 26 ***Rights and Responsibilities***

In today’s readings, we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves, to welcome the alien in our midst, and to care for those most in need. The Church teaches that human dignity is respected only when human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met. Therefore, every human being has the right to food, clothing, housing, employment, health care, freedom of religion, and family life. As we celebrate today’s liturgy, may we pray for the grace and courage to love our neighbors, especially the poor and vulnerable, as ourselves, and may we seek to be compassionate as God is compassionate.