

Exploring Catholicism
Year II: Catholic Social Doctrine
Class 8: Mediating Institutions

I. Review

II. Three Mediating Institutions: The Church, The Family, and Universities

What do we mean by mediating institutions?

CCC 1883 highlights the principle of subsidiarity, which is _____.

Mediating institutions are instrumental for the full flourishing of the human person and for the promotion of justice and charity within society. Alexis de Tocqueville was a diplomat and political philosopher who toured the United States in 1831. He observed that “Americans of all ages, all conditions, all minds constantly unite. Not only do they have commercial and industrial associations in which all take part, but they also have a thousand other kinds: religious, moral, grave, futile, very general and very particular, immense and very small; Americans use associations to give fetes to found seminaries, to build inns, to raise churches, to distribute books, to send missionaries to the antipodes; in this manner they create hospitals, prisons, schools. Finally, if it is a question of bringing to light a truth or developing a sentiment with the support of a great example, they associate.

A: The Church

Review of Ends.

How many ends are there?

What types of ends are there?

What is the *end* of the Church?

Gaudium et Spes teaches that the primary goal of the Church is the salvation of human beings.

Every country is to have their own Conference of Catholic Bishops to aid in the social life of their people. They are independent of each other, but all united under the banner of Rome. Ours is called the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), formerly known as the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB).

Ways in which the USCCB aids their people in engaging in political life

B. Universities (Catholic Education)

What is the *end* of the educational system?

Popes concerned with this issue: Pope Pius XI, Pope Paul VI, and Pope John Paul II