

SALT & LIGHT

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CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Jesus and the Old Testament prophets preached often about living justly, using the context of the times in which they lived, telling stories of farmers, herders and fisherman, as well as lepers, widows, paralytics and others who struggled to survive. As the industrial revolution transformed our world, popes began to write encyclicals which applied the Gospel and prophetic messages to the complexities of modern life. The first of the documents that are now considered Catholic social teaching was *Rerum Novarum* (Of Capital and Labor), written in 1891 by Pope Leo XIII to address the issue of abuse of the laboring class by factory owners. Other writings, such as Pastoral Letters by bishops' conferences, are also included in this body of work. Encyclicals are usually known by their Latin names, which are the first few words of the encyclical and by a common name that gives a sense of the content.

Pope Francis has written two encyclicals, *Laudato si'*, Praise be to you – On Care For Our Common Home, and *Lumen Fidei*, the Light of Faith, several Apostolic Exhortations and many letters and sermons.

We in the Diocese of Rochester have been fortunate to have Catholic social teaching scholars in our midst. Most recently, Fr. Kevin McKenna has updated his *Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching* available at www.avemariapress.com/product/1-59471-438-X/A-Concise-Guide-to-Catholic-Social-Teaching/. My late co-worker, Dr. Marvin Krier Mich wrote two well-known books available at a number of online sites, *The Challenge and Spirituality of Catholic Social Teaching* and *Catholic Social Teaching and Movements*. Many other resources may be found at www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/resources-and-tools.cfm#cst, www.crs.org/resource-center/CST-101. Catholic social teaching is often summarized as seven key themes. The following is taken from the USCCB's 2003 document, *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every in-

stitution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

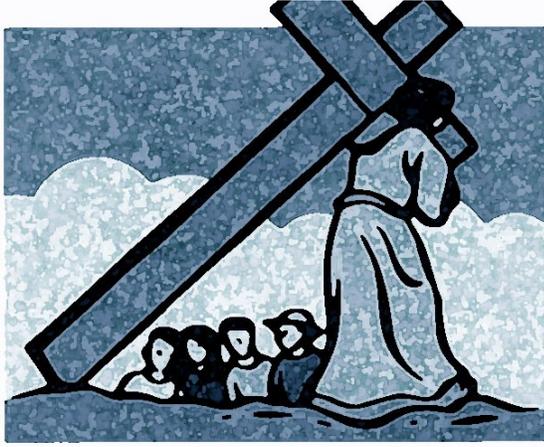
Solidarity

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

Care for God's Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.

GOOD FRIDAY CROSS WALK



GRCC - Faith In Action Network
Episcopal and Roman Catholic Dioceses of Rochester
Churches and Residents of 19th Ward Neighborhood

Invite you:

11th Annual Ecumenical Walk of the Cross

For Solidarity and Justice

Good Friday, April 19, 2019

Gathering: 8:45 a.m.

Walk: 9:00 a.m. to about 10:30 am

Aeon Baptist Church, 175 Genesee St.

The walk will proceed with youth carrying the symbolic wooden cross of Christ throughout the neighborhood, stopping along the way to pray and "make holy" sites of violence and places where there is hope and rejuvenation. There are seven 7 stops on the 1 and ½ mile pilgrimage. Speakers will meditate and pray on the "seven last words of Christ," and how His ministry still speaks to the hearts of those who are suffering in our neighborhoods today.

SPRING INTERFAITH BANQUET

Join the Interfaith Chapel communities and members of the Rochester Interfaith Community for an evening of food, fun and conversation! Get to know people of different religious or spiritual traditions and share stories. Dinner is free to all, just come willing to make new friends! Vegetarian food will be served. Kosher meals available on request.

April 13, 6-8 PM University of Rochester Interfaith Chapel, River Level. Kindly RSVP by April 10 to: urinterfaith@gmail.com and specify if kosher meals are needed.

SPRING REALITY TOUR

What is Rochester's greatest problem? Poverty. For cities our size, we are #1 in extreme poverty. This means there are more than 30,000 men, women, and children in the heart of our community who struggle to survive every day. Learn about their experiences. Hear about the impact of failed policies and devastat-

ing budget cuts on their lives. Sign up for the Reality Tour today while space is available.

Saturday, March 30, 2019

11:45AM to approximately 3:45PM

Meet at The Children's School of Rochester # 15

85 Hillside Ave, Rochester NY 14610

*Look for the yellow school buses.

RSVP by March 28, 2019

Seats are confirmed when payment is received.

\$20 donation for the tour

\$15 for students

\$10 for low income

Reserve your seat with payment at

www.swaarochester.org/reality-tour-registration

Or mail your checks to: SWAA Reality Tour, P.O. Box 17323, Rochester, NY 14617

Info: realitytour@swaarochester.org or 585.512.8822

DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY FORUM

People on the Border: Insights from a Volunteer

Sunday, March 24, 2019—11:30-Noon refreshments and an opportunity to socialize. Noon-1:00 PM Presentation

Presenter: Sister Phyllis Tierney, SSJ

This event will be an opportunity to hear what life is like for people on the border—both the volunteers and the countless people who are seeking a chance for a new life in our country. Sister Phyllis will speak about what she experienced, about some of the realities that cause people to flee their country, why immigration is an important issue to understand, and how people of faith can respond to the crisis. This event is organized by the Downtown Community Forum and our Parish Faith Formation Committee. The Dugan Center is barrier free. Free parking is available on the street around St. Mary's, in the lot across the street from St. Mary's or in the Excellus parking garage. For information contact Dcn David Palma at david.palma@dor.org or 271-7240.

LAUDATO SI' CONFERENCE

Monday, April 1 is the deadline for priority [applications](#) to the upcoming conference "[Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church: A Conference Series on Our Common Home](#)," to be held June 27-29 at Creighton University in Omaha, NE.

The initiative sponsored by Creighton University and Catholic Climate Covenant, is the first of three biennial conferences to gather current and potential leaders in our Church to more deeply integrate *Laudato Si'* and its teachings across various Catholic ministries. For information go to www.creighton.edu/catholicclimate/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=ea28db10-e258-426e-a884-cbfcdb840980