

THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING:

Third of Seven: Rights and Responsibilities

The U.S. bishops highlight seven key themes of Catholic social doctrine. Fr. Fred Kammer, SJ, describes these over seven weeks as we consider many issues facing this nation.

I hope you find these essays enriching, challenging, and engaging.

Third of Seven: Rights and Responsibilities

As I wrote two weeks ago, human rights are based on the sacredness and dignity of the human person. The biblical emphasis on covenant and community also stress that human dignity can be realized only in the context of solidarity with others.

When we talk about rights in our U.S. context, we often are speaking of rights such as free speech, religion, voting, and assembly. These civil and political rights generally imply immunity from interference by others, including government, and would be included in Catholic rights theology, rooted in human dignity. They also require individuals to exercise these rights responsibly in the common interest, e.g. using free speech for truth-telling and not lying.

Our Church teaches that there are other social and economic rights which are indispensable to the protection of human life and dignity and integral to the promotion of the common good of society and participation of all people in community life. First are the rights to life, food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, and basic education. To assure most of these, people have a right to earn a living, usually through remunerative employment. They also have a right to security in the event of sickness, unemployment, and old age. In Catholic teaching, this requires protection of the right to employment as well as healthful working conditions and wages and benefits sufficient to provide workers and their families with a standard of living consistent with human dignity.

Unlike civil and political rights, which are protected from interference by others, these social and economic rights call for positive actions by individuals and society at large. These would be duties for all members of society, including employers, consumers, citizens, taxpayers, and governments.

Saint John XXIII introduced the full range of human rights in his 1963 encyclical *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth). He included specific economic rights, drawn from a logical analysis of human dignity and based upon natural law. He named the opportunity to work, to do so without coercion, and a just wage for the worker and family to live dignified lives and be able to acquire private property. John's related treatment of the right to life specifically included adequate food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, necessary social services, and, in the case of sickness, inability to work, widowhood, or unemployment, some form of "security."

This economic and social rights concept was carried forward by Saint John Paul II in his 1981 encyclical *On Human Work* and by the U.S. bishops in their 1986 pastoral letter *Economic Justice for All*. It implies, as Pope John indicated, duties of the state, not just to promote economic well-being, but to engage in positive steps such as providing essential services and insurance systems to guarantee these rights.

Too often in politics, one side emphasizes the political and civil rights while the other side stresses social and economic rights. In Catholic theology, both sets of rights are important. They call for the organization of societies in ways that not only protect rights of individuals, but that create the social and economic institutions to enable all people to become productive members of society. Such societies recognize that respect for freedom, the meeting of basic needs, and participation in community and social relationships are all essential aspects of human dignity.

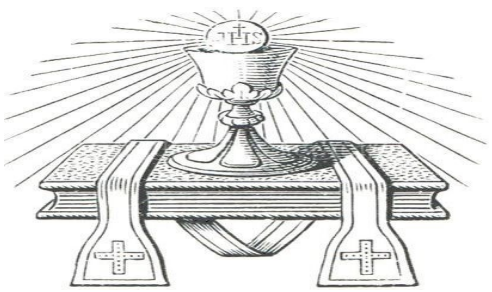
Fred Kammer, S.J., was President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA and Provincial of the New Orleans Jesuit Province and is now with us at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.



There is one way to make sure that you wake up every single day feeling calm, joyful and blessed and that is to adopt an attitude of gratitude. When you make it a conscious habit to express appreciation for your life, God listens and responds with love. Let me be clear..... this doesn't mean that you're a bad person if you aren't able to see the good on a bad day. An attitude of gratitude forces you to get outside of your problems and look at the bigger picture. In turn, you are better able to bounce forward when challenges occur in life.

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Immaculate Conception Church is a Black Catholic Church
serving the family of God and feeding the soul of the Community.

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Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Weekday Masses: MLK Chapel
12:10 PM
Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. Holy
Day Masses:
Vigil Mass: 7:00 PM and 12:10 PM

Church Announcements

WOULD YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW LIKE TO BECOME CATHOLIC?

If you or someone you know would like to find out more information about becoming Catholic, please have them call Father Clark or Cathy Glover (225-772-6099). There is no commitment. You may come just to explore the possibility. Candidates usually are baptized, confirmed, and receive the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Those already baptized, make a profession of faith, are confirmed and receive the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil or another Sunday.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

If you or someone you know who is 18 years or over, was baptized Catholic, and received their First Holy Communion, but did not have the opportunity to celebrate Confirmation, you or they may celebrate the Sacrament either at the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday, 2026 or at our parish celebration. Please see Father Clark for more information.

SU HOMECOMING

Sunday, October 12, is the beginning of the SU Homecoming with the parade rolling at 1:00 PM. If you have parked for the 10:30 AM mass, you are welcome to keep your parking space for the parade. Saturday October 18. is game day. There will be NO 4:00 PM Vigil Mass so that the Knights can sell parking spaces for their scholarship fund and we can manage the parking on our property,

LADIES AUXILIARY RED BEANS AND RICE DINNERS

The KPCLA Court 116 Red Beans and Rice Fundraiser is back! Come out and enjoy a \$12 tasty meal of creamy red beans and rice, savory sausage link, buttery cornbread, tossed salad, and delicious cake on Sunday, November 2 from 12 pm to 2:30 pm in the Parish Activity Center. Acceptable forms of pre-sale and walk up payment are Cash App (\$JenkinsSnoh), Zelle (504-491-6556) or Venmo (Andrea-Toles-1). Skip the cooking and pick up your ready-made Sunday lunch while giving back to the church. We appreciate your support!

BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY MONTH MASS

The annual Black Catholic History Month Mass will take place on Sunday November 2, 2025 at 5:00 PM at Sacred Heart Church. Bishop Duca will be the celebrant and Bishop Joseph Perry, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Chicago, will be the homilist.

HBCU SUNDAY

In light of the recent attacks on HBCUs, including Southern University, let's come together to show our support and solidarity. Wear gear from your favorite HBCU on Sunday, October 19 to stand with these institutions and raise awareness.

AMERICA ARTICLE BY GLORIA PURVIS

There is an excellent article in America magazine by Black Catholic commentator, Gloria Purvis, on the impact on Black Catholic communities when Catholic bishops try to "cannonize" Charlie Kirk. Search America Magazine "What Black Catholics Are Hearing When Church Leaders Praise Charlie Kirk?" or Search for Gloria Purvis' page on Facebook.



ETHEL	COLEMAN	10/12
DANIEL	RICHARD, III	10/12
MAZIE	ROBERSON	10/12
ALBERT	BELLANGER	10/13
CHAD	DYER	10/13
BRENNON	RAMI	10/13
JOHN	BOUDREAUX	10/14
MELLISA	DARGIN	10/14
MARK	DEBOSE, JR.	10/14
LAURA	LEONARD	10/14
GAILE	OKOYE	10/14
JAMES	THOMPSON, III	10/14
SHANA	WILSON	10/14
JA'MIYAH	ODOM	10/15
ETHEL	SCOTT	10/15
RAYON	SCOTT	10/15
TAYLOR	ADDISON	10/16
CHASE	BROWN	10/16
JEREMY	BROWN	10/16
TANGANIKIA	JOHNSON	10/16
LAUREN	SHELMIRE	10/16
ELAINE	SIMMS	10/17
CARRIE	BROWN	10/18
MATTHEW	CRUMP, JR.	10/18
CARTER	DRUMMOND	10/18
CHANDLER	JAMES	10/18
SCHENA	SINGLETON	10/18
KEIAWANA	WILLIAMS	10/18
PATRICK	ALEXANDER	10/19
RUDY	LOPEZ	10/19
ANGELA	VEAL	10/19

PARISH PICNIC

Come celebrate our Parish Family at our annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, October 26 after the 10:30 AM Mass until 3:00 PM. Enjoy great food, line dancing, trunk or treat, video gaming truck, snow balls, bounce house, outdoor games, line dancing, face painting, prizes, and much more!

PARISH COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES

There will be a meeting of the Parish Council of Ministries on Tuesday October 21 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center. All chairpersons of parish ministries and organizations as well as interested parishioner are ask to attend. Minutes of the last meeting and agenda will be sent out as the date approaches.

REMINDER: FALL BACK ON NOVEMBER 2 RETURN TO STANDARD TIME

Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday November 1. Standard Time returns at 2:00 AM on November 2.

Mass Readings October 12-19

Sunday The Twenty-Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5: 14-17
2 Timothy 2: 8-13
Luke 17: 11-19

Monday
Romans 1: 1-7
Luke 11: 29-32

Tuesday
Romans 1: 16-25
Luke 11: 37-41

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Teresa of Jeus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Romans2: 1-11
Luke 11: 42-46

Thursday
Romans 3:21 –30
Luke 11: 47-54

Friday Memorial Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishops and Mary

Romans 4: 1-8
Luke 12: 1-7

Saturday Feast of Saint Luke, Evangelist

2 Timothy 4: 10-17
Luke 10: 1-9

Sunday Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus17: 8-13
2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4:2
Luke 18: 1-8

