

THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The U.S. bishops highlight seven key themes of Catholic social doctrine. We will share a reflection written by **Father Fred Kammer, SJ** this week and the following six weeks. In the times in which we are living, it is good to know what the Church teaches on social justice and human rights.

First of Seven: Human Life and Dignity

Human creation in the “image and likeness of God” (Genesis 1:26)—the first foundation for Catholic social thought—involves the dignity of the human person found in various philosophies but incredibly elevated because we humans are capable of intimate relationship with God and sanctified by Christ’s salvific grace. This transcendent dignity depends not on any accomplishment, education, wealth, race, or nation. It is not taken away by birth defect, disease, crime, poverty, or membership in any suspect group. Human dignity necessarily involves human life, rights, development, and empowerment.

Human life. In *Evangelium Vitae* (1995), Saint John Paul II focused on the inviolability of human life and proclaimed a gospel of life over against a culture of death. The Pontiff argued that the right to life was the most basic human right. Without defending the right to life, we cannot further the common good, since it is the right to life “upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop.” John Paul condemned murder, procured abortion, euthanasia, and capital punishment (except where the death penalty is the only way to defend society, but “such cases are very rare if not practically nonexistent.”)

Human rights. From human life and dignity, the Catholic tradition developed human rights, reaching a high point in affirming civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights in *Pacem in Terris* (1963) by Saint John XXIII. Rights actually give content to human dignity in relationship to persons, systems, and structures. Some rights protect human dignity in its bodiliness: the right to life, bodily integrity, food, clothing, shelter, and some minimum degree of health care. Other rights relate to being able to work, free economic initiative, adequate working conditions, and just wages. Still others such as the rights to assembly and association defend our dignity in social interactions.

Integral human development. Pope Paul VI in *Populorum Progressio* (1967) put forward a broad, complex, and demanding concept of the development of nations. Not just economic, human development must be integral in two senses: the whole person and every person. Development engages the individual in personal responsibility for self-fulfillment. To achieve authentic development, we must move “from less human conditions to those which are more human”: from material deprivation of life’s essentials, the moral deficiencies of selfishness, and oppressive social structures... to the possession of necessities, knowledge, culture, respect for others’ dignity, cooperation, a desire for peace, and spiritual values.

Empowerment. Catholic thought has evolved from just protecting workers and the poor to promoting their empowerment as “artisans of their own destiny”—individually, as workers and citizens, and as poor nations. Empowerment is a process of engagement that increases the ability of individuals, families, organizations, and communities to build mutually respectful relationships and bring about fundamental, positive change in the conditions affecting their daily lives.

Empowerment stands on three principles: (1) People are the primary agents of change; (2) empowering changes happen through participative relationships; and (3) the human person is both social and spiritual; what affects one aspect of the person affects the other.

Fred Kammer, S.J. was President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA and Provincial of the New Orleans Province of the Jesuits

A TALE OF 2 MEN

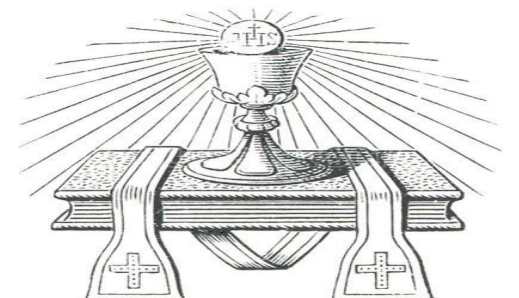
LUKE 16:19-31 (LAZARUS AND THE RICH MAN)

The Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 28, 2025

The fates of these two individuals after death are very much tied to their experiences of wealth and poverty in this 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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MLK/SU CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER:
Joyce Johnson - Wilfred Johnson(225) 775-8691



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



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.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 11 (EARLY VOTING: September 27-October 4, 2025)

There will be a primary election on Saturday, October 11 with early voting from September 27-October 4. Since ballots vary depending on your parish and precinct, these are the possible items you will see on your ballot.
District Judge 19th Judicial District Court, ES 1, Div. O (1 to be elected)
City Judge City Court, ES 2A, City of Baton Rouge (1 to be elected)
Downtown Development District - 10 Mills Renewal - MC - 5 Yrs.
Concord Estates Crime Prev. Dist. - \$69.50 Parcel Fee - BOC - 6 Yrs.
Southern Heights Nbrhd. Crime Prev. & Imp. Dist. - \$100 Parcel Fee Renewal - BOC - 10 Yrs

SU HOMECOMING SCHEDULE OF MASSES

The SU Homecoming Parade will take place on Sunday, October 12 at 1:00 PM. We will have our regular Mass schedule that weekend: 4:00 PM (Vigil), 8:00 AM, and 10:30 AM. If you park in the church lot for the 10:30 AM Mass, you may keep that parking space if you plan to attend the parade. On Saturday, October 18, the day of the Homecoming Game, **we will not have the 4:00 PM Vigil Mass.** The Knights will be selling parking places to support their scholarship fund and to manage parking on our property.

WHAT’S THAT SMELL???? ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LISTENING SESSION

Earthworks.org will host a listening sessions throughout the EBR parish about environmental Issues in our community. There will be a listening session on Tuesday September 30 at 6:00 PM located at the Jewel Newman Community Center. Children are welcome to attend. Dinner will be served and the first ten attendees will receive a prize.

AN INVITATION FROM ALLISON SINGLETON: “ECHOES OF ENOUGH:

AN EVENING OF ART, HOPE, AND TRUTH”

On October 6 at 6:30 PM at the Manship Theater there will be a powerful presentation that Allison will be directing: **“Echoes of Enough: An Evening of Art, Hope, and Truth”** featuring the national initiative Enough! Plays to End Gun Violence. Students will take the stage to confront gun violence through theater, dance, and music. Be part of this national movement for change. Get your tickets online at the Manship Theater today!



ANN	CHARLES	9/28
CARMEN	CHARLES	9/28
HENRY	CLAIBORNE, SR.	9/28
COSETTE	KAUFMAN	9/28
DOROTHY	MOTTE	9/28
SHEILA	NEWTON	9/28
CHARLES	BUTLER	9/29
REGGIE	HIGGINS	9/29
TESS	STIRGUS	9/29
PETER	ALBERT	9/30
JACIEN	BELEZAIRE	9/30
LAMIESA	BONTON	9/30
LORENZO	O'BRIEN	9/30
JEANINE	ENNIS	9/30
SYLVIA	QUINN	9/30
MICHAEL	COLEMAN	10/1
ALLISON	LLORENS	10/1
DINA	NEAL	10/1
ROSAYA	MORRIS	10/1
JOYCELYN	DEROUEN	10/2
JAMES	FREEMAN, JR.	10/2
BETHANY	JACK	10/2
LILLIAN	LEE	10/2
JUANITA	RIDEAU	10/2
TARIC	BEARD	10/3
RANDY	BOURGEOIS, II	10/3
KATRINA	FREEMAN	10/3
NICOLE	HARRIS	10/3
NORA	LISTACH III	10/3
KAYLAN	PERRY	10/3
MARCUS	GRAY	10/4

PLANNING MEETING FOR PARISH PICNIC

There will be a planning meeting for the Parish Picnic on this Thursday October 2 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Activity Center.

SAVE THE DATE: PARISH PICNIC

We will celebrate our annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, October 26 after the 10:30 AM Mass until 3:00 PM. Please plan to join us for good food, music, games, raffles, and dancing! Pray for good weather!

PARISH COUNCIL OF MINITIRIES

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.

Mass Readings
September 28 -
October 4

Sunday
The Twenty-Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Amos 6: 1, 4-7
1 Timothy 6: 11-16
Luke 16: 19-31

Monday
Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and
Raphael Archangels
Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14
John 1: 47-51

Tuesday
Anniversary of the Dedication of
Saint Joseph Cathedral Baton Rouge
1 Kings 8: 22-23, 27-30
Revelation 21: 1-5
Luke 19: 1-10

Wednesday
Memorial of St. Thérèse of the Child
Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the
Church
Nehemiah 2: 1-8
Luke 9: 57-62

Thursday
Memorial of the Holy Guardian
Angels
Nehemiah 8: 1-4, 5-6, 7-12
Matthew 18: 1-5, 10

Friday
Baruch 1: 15-22
Luke 10: 13-16

Saturday
Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi
Baruch 4: 5-12, 27-29
Luke 10: 17-24

Sunday
The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Habakkuk 1: 2-3. 2: 2-4
2 Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14
Luke 17: 5-10