

# The Two Feet of Social Action

## Charity

Direct  
Social Services

Help individuals  
meet their  
present needs:

- Serve in soup  
kitchens
- Sponsor a  
refugee family
- Mentor and  
tutor
- Donate food,  
clothing, money

## Justice

Social Change

Correct long-term  
problems in  
communities:

- Educate self and  
others on justice  
issues
- Participate in  
community self-  
help projects
- Advocate for just  
public policies
- Develop local  
community  
enterprises

## **Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching**

- + **Life and Dignity of the Human Person**
- + **Call to Family, Community, & Participation**
- + **Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person**
- + **Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**
- + **Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers**
- + **Solidarity**
- + **Care for God's Creation**

## **Major Documents of Catholic Social Teaching**

- + *Rerum Novarum (On the Condition of Labor)* -- Pope Leo XIII, 1891
- + *Quadragesimo Anno (After Forty Years)* -- Pope Pius XI, 1931
- + *Mater et Magistra (Christianity and Social Progress)* -- Pope John XXIII, 1961
- + *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)* -- Pope John XXIII, 1963
- + *Gaudium et Spes (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World)* - Vatican Council II, 1965
- + *Dignitatis Humanae (Declaration on Religious Freedom)* -- Vatican Council II, 1965
- + *Populorum Progressio (On the Development of Peoples)* -- Pope Paul VI, 1967
- + *Octogesima Adveniens (A Call to Action)* -- Pope Paul VI, 1971
- + *Iustitia in Mundo (Justice in the World)* -- Synod of Bishops, 1971
- + *Brothers and Sisters to Us* – NCCB (USCCB), 1979
- + *Laborem Exercens (On Human Work)* -- Pope John Paul II, 1981
- + *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response* – NCCB (USCCB), 1983
- + *Economic Justice for All* – NCCB(USCCB), 1986
- + *Solicitudo Rei Socialis (On Social Concern)* -- Pope John Paul II, 1987
- + *Centesimus Annus (The Hundredth Year)* -- Pope John Paul II, 1991
- + *Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life)* -- Pope John Paul II, 1995
- + *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope* – USCCB, 2003
- + *Deus Caritas Est (God Is Love)* -- Pope Benedict XVI, 2005
- + *A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death* – USCCB, 2005
- + *Caritas in Veritate (Charity and Truth)* -- Pope Benedict XVI, 2009
- + *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)* – Pope Francis, 2013
- + *Laudato Si (On Care for Our Common Home)* – Pope Francis, 2015

## **Suggested Resources**

USCCB, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/>

NY State Catholic Conference, *Pursuing Justice: Catholic Social Teaching and Issues in Contemporary Society*, 10/23/2012, <http://www.nyscatholic.org/2012/10/pursuing-justice-catholic-social-teaching-and-issues-in-contemporary-society/>

Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis: <https://www.cctwincities.org/education-advocacy/catholic-social-teaching/>

USCCB: Communities of Salt and Light: <https://www.wearesaltandlight.org/>

Social Justice Resource Center: <http://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/>

CRS - Catholic Social Teaching 101 videos and materials: <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/CST-101>

Share the Journey Campaign on Migration and Refugees: [www.sharejourney.org](http://www.sharejourney.org)