

Ethical and Social Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church

- **Life and Dignity of the Human Person** ~ We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.
- **Call to Family, Community, and Participation** ~ 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** ~ In a world where some speak mostly of 'rights' and others mostly of 'responsibilities,' the Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and the healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met.
- **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable** ~ 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** ~ Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. 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 private property and to economic initiative.
- **Solidarity** ~ Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means that 'loving our neighbor' has global dimensions in an interdependent world.
- **Care for God's 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