

Teen Examination of Conscience

Based on the 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Life and Dignity of the Human Person: Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.

- For the times that we as individuals purposefully denigrate others by mocking, by bullying or by gossiping.
- For the times that we as a community failed to recognize the value of every human life by supporting government actions that end life
- For the times that we as a world have forgotten that we are ALL children of God.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers: As Catholics we believe that the economy must serve the 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 organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

- For the times that we as individuals ignored, neglected and mistreated workers who serve our everyday needs.
- For the times that we as a community have failed to respect the basic rights of workers by not treating people as human beings.
- For the times that we as a world have supported organizations by purchasing goods made by children, underpaid workers or abused employees.

Call to Family, Community and Participation: While our society often praises individualism, the Catholic tradition teaches that human beings grow and achieve fulfillment in community.

- For the times that we as individuals have put our own selfish desires before the needs of others by consuming more than we need.
- For the times that we as a community have promoted greed and selfishness by coveting things with disregard to people.
- For the times that we as a world have ignored such injustices as violence, oppressive governments and genocide by turning away.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: “Catholic teaching proclaims that a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring.”

- For the times that we as individuals judge others by making assumptions about their state in life.
- For the times that we as a community offered things but not relationships with the poor among us.
- For the times that we as a world have placed a value on lives based proportionally on wealth.

Care of God's Creation: Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan; it is a requirement of our faith.

- For the times that we as individuals have neglected to care for the environment by littering, being wasteful and by not recycling when possible.
- For the times that we as a community fail to speak up respectfully when public institutions fail to provide adequate opportunities to reuse, reduce and recycle.
- For the times that we as a world take for granted resources of water, fuel and food or when we misuse our God-given resources by creating tools that destroy the earth and its people.

Promotion of Peace: Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice.

- For the times that we as individuals have ignored injustices in our school by going along with the crowd, ruining another person's reputation by gossiping, or by passively standing by when someone is treated unfairly by others
- For the times that we as a community have allowed injustices to occur by blocking opportunities for fair housing, for buying into generalized stereotypes and for turning a blind eye to what is good for everyone in our community.
- For the times that we as a world have harvested conflict rather than peace; knowing that peace is the fruit of justice.

Solidarity: Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, Wherever they live."

- For the times that we as individuals have failed to take the time to understand people in my school, or neighborhood who are different from me knowing that we are all children of God.
- For the times that we as a community did not support our brothers and sisters by standing up for one another or by being a spectator when one group of people bullied or antagonized another person or persons.
- For the times that we as a world support a atmosphere of division rather than unity by refusing to acknowledge people from other lands as our sisters and our brothers.