

Holy  Spirit Catholic Church

Parents welcomed

Let's Talk Youth Ministry

Topic: Social Ethics & Justice

**Sunday, July 26, 2020
3:00 p.m.**

Welcome

- † Welcome**
- † Using Zoom**
- † Asking Questions**
- † Opening Prayer**

Opening Prayer

**† Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.**

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

**Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.**

**In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and
always rejoice in your consolation.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. †

Love Thy Neighbor

† Who is my neighbor?

- † **EVERYBODY** is our neighbor. The enemy is the hardest of all. Jesus commands us to love them.
- † Human persons are made to show forth the image of God and to live in unity together, reflecting the unity of the Trinity. (CCC 1877-1889)
- † Choose path of compassion with those aliens we come across.
- † Catholic social teaching (CCC 2419-2422). Catholic social teaching sheds light on our entire lives to teach us to live in accord with the dignity of each and every person.
- † Love of neighbor cannot be separated from love of God. You cannot love God who you do not see unless you love your neighbor who you do see.
- † Includes loving God's poor...Jesus showed a special love for the poor.

Poverty



We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.

(Mother Teresa)

There are different forms of poverty:

- † Lack of love
- † Lack of family and/or friends
- † Lack of economic and/or social standing in the eyes of the world
- † Lack of family stability
- † Lack of physical health
- † Lack of psychological health

Poverty

The bible calls us to go the extra mile and to not judge.

(Ex: elderly, disabled, imprisoned, homeless)

If you turn away, you miss a spiritual opportunity.

When you did not do this for the least of my people, you did not do this for me. ~ Matthew 25

Serving others is a key characteristic for what it means to be a disciple.

**“Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you.”
~ Mother Teresa**



Catholic Social Teaching

- † Individuals participate in the common good of society:
 - † First, by taking charge of the areas for which one assumes personal responsibility (family, work, etc.) and,
 - † Second, by actively taking part in public life to ensure institutions promote the common good and dignity of the human person. (CCC 1913-1915)

- † Catholic social teaching is lived out in our daily lives, in our families, and in the way that we treat every person with whom we come in contact.

- † Society, through its social, economic, and political practices and institutions, should promote the exercise of virtue and the priority of spiritual values, which point to what is truly most important in life. (CCC 1886-1888, 1895)

Virtues & Values

What is a virtue?

Positive habits (can be learned). Building blocks of relationships. Beliefs and ways of acting that are our best selves.

4 Cardinal Virtues:

- **Temperance** – Self control, balance, perspective, knows how to enjoy life but not where life controls
- **Fortitude** – Courage, strength, inner toughness, endurance
- **Prudence** – Cautiousness, showing care or thought for the future, instinctually knows how to make right decisions. Past experience + future goals
- **Justice** – Fairness, fulfill our responsibilities

Moral theology is about finding the way home to our true selves as believers in the God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. It is being marked by right relationship with God.

God's love for us does not depend on our behavior. We are welcome in the house of God despite our behavior.

Values

❖ **Beliefs**

❖ **Practices (rituals)**

❖ **Behaviors**

Character – How you're known. How people have come to know who you are.

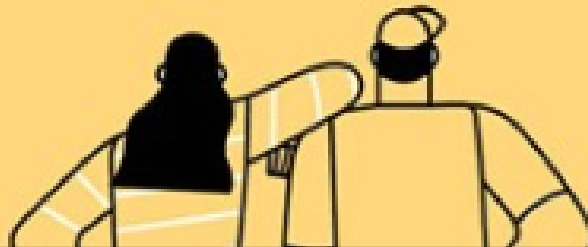
The choices we make will determine who we are.

Conflict

- † Projection – We see in others, things we don't accept in ourselves. We avoid our own feelings of worthlessness.
- † Control – power struggle
- † Fear – we fear what we don't know or understand. Don't make assumptions. Major reason for violence.

Fear

**Ignorance
breeds fear.
Fear breeds hatred.
Hatred breeds destruction.**



Conflict

3 ways to deal with conflict:

- 1) Understanding – Seek to understand. Put ourselves in their shoes.
- 2) Focusing – Don't fall back on past memories. Waste time. Focus on problem at hand.
- 3) Negotiating – Doesn't mean giving in. People know you care about their agenda. Both get something. Compromise (win-win).

Social Ethics

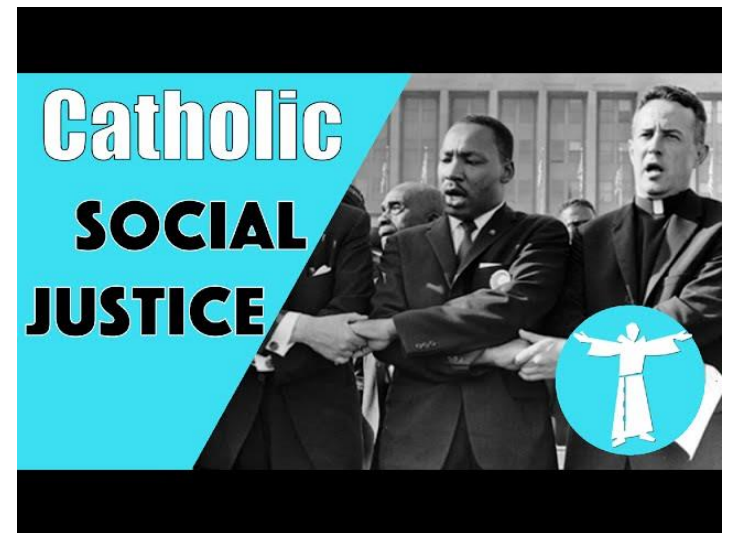
What is Social Ethics?

- † Balancing individual freedom with common good.
- † Code of conduct that governs what is and is not acceptable.
- † Provides a framework to make sure that all members of a community are cared for.
- † “Social Contract”

Core Values

How do our core values impact how we approach Social Ethics?

- 1) The inherent and abiding dignity of every human being.
- 2) The common good. 3 elements:
 - ❖ Respect the person
 - ❖ Social well-being/development
 - ❖ Peace
- 4) Work is more than a commodity to be marketed.
- 5) The concept of JUSTICE is a multi-faceted virtue.



Social Justice

Dimensions of Justice?

- 1) Commutative Justice – everything else being equal. You do your part then I am obliged to do mine. If you don't then I'm not. Must earn it (no free ride). What does the community owe the individual? Education, police, military, roads, etc.
- 2) Distributive Justice – community/organization may have to provide for someone of special needs an accommodation. The duty the community has to individual members. Renders someone their due based on human need. Ex: Giving a disabled veteran job preference if equally qualified.
- 3) Social Justice – individuals also owe something to their community (jury duty, draft, community service).

These are designed to counter unhealthy split among Christian groups.

The challenge is to be consistent such as being pro-life across the board (not just abortion). Respect and value the dignity of all human life.

Wherever life is threatened we should be present with immediate aid and reform.

Social Justice



Social justice cannot be attained by violence. Violence kills what it intends to create.

Pope John Paul II

www.thequotes.in

Those who say they love God but hate their neighbors are lying.

Morality

Morality is ones values, choices and actions. Who we are is lived out in what we do. It is made up of our values, decisions and actions. It is our response to God in how we love God, others and ourselves.

Moral development is gradual and takes place at different paces for each person.

What is a moral life?

- **Parameters of conduct**
- **Right vs wrong**
- **Values, choices, actions**
- **Jesus is the model of a life lived with integrity & goodness**

Morality must be based on Faith and not religious laws.

Morality

Jesus said: LOVE God.....LOVE your Neighbor as you.....LOVE yourself!



The Golden Rule

FAITH is about **LOVE** not fear, being motivated by **TRUST** not insignificance, creating **GOOD** not evil, God's **TRUTH** not Manipulation, **ACCEPTANCE** not persecution.

Only FAITH matters which is expressed through LOVE.

Conscience

- **Conscience is a form of self-evaluation.**
- **Our innate sense of right & wrong.**
- **We have a moral obligation to inform and follow our conscience.**
- **It is a sanctuary where persons are alone with God who speaks to them in their hearts.**
- **It is a special moment of contact between God and our hearts.**
- **It involves perception of principles of morality, application in given circumstances and judgement about a specific action for ourselves.**

Knowledge vs. Free Will

Whatever lies in our hearts will characterize us as persons and make its way into our actions. Be careful what you allow to dwell in your heart.

Commandments

God gives us rules because he knows what's good for us and to set us free to live the life he made us for just as a parent does for his children.

Discerning

What is discernment?

- † It is right judgement/ability to judge.
- † Perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding:

The process of discernment:

- Analyze the situation
- Gather information/seek counsel
- Reflect
- Determine what you want to control or what you will allow to control you

Making Decisions

3 dimensions of making a decision:

- 1) Look at the act itself (what) ACTION
- 2) Take into account the circumstances (when, where, how, options, etc.)
- 3) Look at our intention (why?)

All 3 must be good.

Making Decisions

Resources:

- 1) Word of God (bible/scripture) – don't take out of context
- 2) Church's tradition and teachings
- 3) Pope/Bishops (Magisterium) – collectively
- 4) Wise friend (pastor, family, etc.) – seek prudence and wisdom (foresightful application of all previous experience & learnings)
- 5) Prayer – quiet time to allow God in

Our choices forge our identity...they shape who we are.

The end can never justify the means.

Racism & Tolerance

What is racism?

Racism is when, either consciously or unconsciously, a person holds that his or her own race or ethnicity is superior, and therefore judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard.

When this conviction or attitude leads individuals or groups to exclude, ridicule, mistreat or unjustly discriminate against persons on the basis of their race or ethnicity, it is sinful and a violation of justice. When you fail to act or speak against racial injustice it is a sin of omission.

What racial/ethnic groups are most impacted in U.S? (Native Americans, AA, Hispanics)

Racism & Tolerance

Native Americans

- Disproportionate poverty
- Unemployment
- Inadequate health care
- Poor schools/education
- Exploitation of natural resources and disputes over land ownership

African Americans

- Mass kidnapping & savage enslavement
- Post slavery: aggression and violence, constant fear (Jim Crow laws)
- Little or no socioeconomic advancements (housing, work, education)
- Participation in the political process denied/limited

Hispanics

- Similar patterns of discrimination
- Major target of immigration raids and mass deportation
- Often assumed to be in this country illegally

Deep wounds...

Racism & Tolerance

USCCB has a committee on racism. As members of the church we cannot turn a blind eye and profess to respect every human life. It can be done through peaceful non-violent protest. Many feel their voices are not being heard. Racism is a life issue.

What does Tolerance mean? Means disagreeing then being loving.

What is lack of tolerance? Bigotry

USCCB: Open Wide our Hearts (Pastoral Letter Nov 2018)

FAILURES: Bishops lament past failures and ask for forgiveness:

- **Pope Nicholas V permitted kings to buy/sell Africans**
- **Catholic leaders failed to oppose slavery (some owned)**
- **Sons & daughters of the Church committing acts of racism**

SUCCESES: Sisters of St. Josephs

Sisters of St. Josephs (St. Aug)

Our Mission

The Sisters of Saint Joseph of St. Augustine, Florida are a congregation of Catholic women living the consecrated life as vowed religious serving the needs of the dear neighbor in Florida.

We have been called to a radical following of Jesus, and we believe in being a reflection of God's great love. As Consecrated women, rooted in prayer, we live and work to foster human dignity, and union with God and our neighbors.

We do this by ministering through our presence, leadership and partnerships in works of mercy, Catholic education, health care, and spiritual growth.



7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

- 1) Respect the Human Person and protect all human life (5 stages)
- 2) Promote the Family and strong family life
- 3) Protect Property Rights
- 4) Work for the Common Good
- 5) Observe the Principle of Subsidiarity
- 6) Respect Work and the Worker
- 7) Pursue Peace and Care for the Poor

What can we do?

- Pray, Pray, Pray (comfort, peace, justice, conversion and healing)
- Get to know, understand and come together with people from different cultural backgrounds (listen and learn).
- It is the duty of citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity and freedom. (CCC# 2239)
- Don't be part of the problem (even in your future)
- Other suggestions?

Questions and Open Discussion

Let's Talk About It



Closing Prayer

Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts:
pray for us.