



Catholic social teaching

Papal, Vatican and U.S. bishops' documents

Explore Church teaching on human dignity and our life together. This directory brings papal, Vatican and U.S. bishops' documents into one place, with links to the complete source texts.

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Links open external source websites. Language links appear where they were supplied. Read the complete documents at their source for the full teaching and its context.

Papal and Vatican documents

1. [Rerum Novarum](#) (On the Condition of Labor) - Pope Leo XIII, 1891
2. [Quadragesimo Anno](#) (After Forty Years) - Pope Pius XI, 1931
3. [Mater et Magistra](#) (Christianity and Social Progress) - St. John XXIII, 1961
4. [Pacem in Terris](#) (Peace on Earth) - St. John XXIII, 1963
5. [Gaudium et Spes](#) (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World) - Second Vatican Council, 1965
6. [Dignitatis Humanae](#) (Declaration on Religious Freedom) - Second Vatican Council, 1965
7. [Populorum Progressio](#) (On the Development of Peoples) - St. Paul VI, 1967
8. [Octogesima Adveniens](#) (A Call to Action) - St. Paul VI, 1971
9. [Evangelii Nuntiandi](#) (Evangelization in the Modern World) - St. Paul VI, 1975

10. **Laborem Exercens** (On Human Work) - St. John Paul II, 1981
11. **Sollicitudo Rei Socialis** (On Social Concern) - St. John Paul II, 1987
12. **The Church and Racism: Towards a more fraternal society** - Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, 1989
13. **Centesimus Annus** (The Hundredth Year) - St. John Paul II, 1991
14. **Veritatis splendor** (The Splendor of Truth) - St. John Paul II, 1993
15. **Evangelium Vitae** (The Gospel of Life) - St. John Paul II, 1995
16. **Dignitas Personae** (The Dignity of a Person) - Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 2008
17. **Ecclesia in America** (The Church in America) - St. John Paul II, 1999
18. **Fides et Ratio** (Faith and Reason) - St. John Paul II, 1998
19. **Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life** - Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, 2002
20. **Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church** - Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, 2004
21. **Deus Caritas Est** (God Is Love) - Pope Benedict XVI, 2005
22. **Sacramentum Caritatis** (The Eucharist as the Source and Summit of the Church's Life and Mission) - Pope Benedict XVI, 2007 (especially paragraphs 47, 49, 82-84, and 88-92)
23. **Caritas in Veritate** (Charity in Truth) - Pope Benedict XVI, 2009
24. **Evangelii Gaudium** (The Joy of the Gospel) - Pope Francis, 2013
25. **Laudato Si'** (On Care for Our Common Home) - Pope Francis, 2015
26. **Querida Amazonia** (Beloved Amazon) - Pope Francis, 2020
27. **Fratelli Tutti** (On Fraternity and Social Friendship) - Pope Francis, 2020
28. **Laudate Deum** (Praise God) - Pope Francis, 2023
29. **Dilexit Nos** (He Loved Us) - Pope Francis, 2024

U.S. bishops' documents

1. [A Renewed Call to Solidarity with Africa](#), March 2022 | [en Español](#) | [en français](#)
2. [Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States](#), November 2015, (with 2023 Introductory Note). See previous [political responsibility statements](#).
3. [Open Wide Our Hearts: the Enduring Call to Love](#) | [en Español](#), November 2018
4. [Labor Day Statements](#)
5. [Respecting the Just Rights of Workers](#), June 2009
6. [A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death](#) | [en Español](#) November 2005
7. [Catholics in Political Life](#), June 2004
8. ["For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food"](#) Catholic Reflections on Food, Farmers, and Farmworkers | [en Español](#) December 2003
9. [Strangers No Longer](#) | [en Español](#) January 2003, Joint Statement from Bishops of the United States and Mexico
10. [A Place at the Table: A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to Respect the Dignity of All God's Children](#) | [en Español](#) , December 2002
11. [Statement on Iraq](#), November 2002
12. [Statement on Israeli-Palestinian Violence](#), March 2002
13. [A Call to Solidarity with Africa](#) | [en français](#), November 2001
14. [A Pastoral Message: Living with Faith and Hope After September 11](#), November 2001
15. [Resolution on the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis](#), June 2001
16. [Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good](#) | [en Español](#) June 2001
17. [Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice](#) | [en Español](#) November 2000
18. [Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity](#) | [en Español](#) November 2000

19. [Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice](#) | [en Español](#) November 1999
20. [In All Things Charity: A Pastoral Challenge for the New Millennium](#), November 1999
21. [A Good Friday Appeal to End the Death Penalty](#) | [en Español](#) April 1999
22. [A Commitment to All Generations: Social Security and the Common Good](#), May 1999
23. [A Jubilee Call for Debt Forgiveness](#), April 1999
24. [Living the Gospel of Life](#) | [en Español](#) November 1998
25. [Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions](#) | [en Español](#) June 1998
26. [Called to Global Solidarity](#) | [en Español](#) November 1997
27. [A Catholic Framework for Economic Life](#) | [en Español](#) (unavailable) November 1996
28. [A Decade After Economic Justice for All](#) | [en Español](#) November 1995
29. [Sowing Weapons of War](#), June 1995
30. [Moral Principles and Policy Priorities for Welfare Reform](#), March 1995
31. [The Cries of the Poor are Still with Us](#), September 1995
32. [Confronting a Culture of Violence](#) | [en Español](#) November 1994
33. [Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish](#) | [en Español](#) November 1993
34. [The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace](#), November 1993
35. [A Framework for Comprehensive Healthcare Reform](#), 1993
36. [When I call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women](#) | [en Español](#) September 1992
37. [A Matter of the Heart](#)
38. [Renewing the Earth](#) | [en Español](#), 1991
39. [Putting Children and Families First: A Challenge for Our Church, Nation and World](#) | [en Español](#), 1991
40. [A Century of Social Teaching](#), 1990

41. [New Slavery, New Freedom](#), 1990
42. [Called to Compassion and Responsibility](#), November 1989
43. [Toward Peace in the Middle East](#), 1989
44. [Homelessness and Housing](#), March 1988
45. [Statement on Central America](#) | [en Español](#), November 1987
46. [Economic Justice for All](#) | [en Español](#), November 1986
47. [The Challenge of Peace](#), 1983
48. [Statement on Capital Punishment](#), November 1980
49. [In the Name of Peace: Collective Statements on War and Peace](#), 1919-1980
50. [Brothers and Sisters to Us](#) | [en Español](#), 1979
51. [Pastoral Statement on Persons with Disabilities](#), 1978
52. [Declaration on Conscientious Objection and Selective Conscientious Objection](#), October 1971