

SOCIAL JUSTICE  
Catholic Social Teaching (CST)  
Mr. Bouton – Room 209 - [mbouton@jcchs.org](mailto:mbouton@jcchs.org)

Please bring the following to class every day:

- 1½ - inch binder with dividers and paper inside; pen or pencil and highlighter
- Bible
- Student Text, “Catholic Social Teaching” by Michael Pennock.

Welcome to Senior Year and Theology!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**WHAT DO I WANT US TO ACCOMPLISH THIS YEAR?**

We will study the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. In other words, what did Jesus demonstrate and teach regarding “love one another” and how has the Catholic Church passed this on to apply to issues in the world today. Various groups divide the CST principles differently. Our course will examine 10 CST principles – 9 principles that are based on one premise – **all human beings are made in God’s image and have human dignity.**

Due to each person having human dignity, we are called to **respect all life.**

As people made in God’s image and called to follow Christ, **we are called to family and to participate in community.**

**All people have rights and corresponding responsibilities.**

**We are called to work toward the common good of all – to provide conditions so that all can thrive.**

Some are more vulnerable than others, we are called to **a preferential option and love for the poor and vulnerable.**

The first CST document declared that **work has dignity and workers have rights.**

As our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers we are called to **live in solidarity with all.**

Finally, as humans we are not separate from creation, rather **we are called to be stewards of creation.**

Throughout time the Church has examined the “signs of the times” and developed Scripture with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead Catholics, and others of good faith to live charitably in the world. “Partial birth abortion”; “economic sanctions”; “lethal injection”; “greenhouse gases”; “euthanasia” are terms that are not in Scripture. What does the Catholic Church say regarding these issues? We will study and reflect upon various CST documents.

We will examine and reflect upon the seniors' community service project experience to demonstrate the principles. We will also begin each class with prayer from Bishop Baker's book, "When did we see you, Lord?"

**FIELD TRIP** – The senior Theology classes will take a field trip to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in late October. Details to follow.

**REQUIREMENTS** - Each quarter we will have at 3 tests/projects per the Handbook. Tests will be given on test day A. Projects that are turned in late will be docked 10% each day they are late. **Tests/projects will constitute 75% of your grade.**

**Summer Reading** – The summer reading assigned questions are to be turned in on **Tuesday, August 17**. This will be a 100-pt test grade. The questions are time-consuming and thought-provoking. Do not wait until the last minute to complete these.

**Community Service Project Presentation** – The students will have the opportunity to reflect upon their community service project and apply what they experienced to what they've learned about Catholic Social Teaching. This will be in the form of a Multiple Intelligence demonstration at the end of the semester.

**Test Re-takes** -Students who make an 80% or lower on tests are allowed to take a retake within one week of receiving their graded test back. The highest that student may make on a retake is an 80%.

**Homework and classwork will count as 20% of your grade.** There will be weekly homework assignments. Homework and classwork assignments that are late will count 50%.

**Participation will count as 5% of your grade.** Students are expected to be respectful of one another; creating an atmosphere in which others are encouraged to share their thoughts based on the CST themes. Clearly, in a course on human dignity and respect students are expected to act accordingly. Paying attention to the teacher and other students is a minimum requirement. Attention during class prayer is expected. Participation during school (intercom) prayer is also expected.

**It is assumed that work turned in with your name on it is your work.**

Students who turn in papers that are typed will be given 3 bonus points.

Students who turn in papers in which the student is re-using paper or writing on the back of a page will be given 3 bonus points.

Rubrics will be given out as a guide regarding grading.

**EXAMS** - Seniors are able to exempt their exams as described in the handbook – maintaining at least a 90% average with 3 or fewer absences for the semester.

**FINAL THOUGHT** - Sometimes things don't go as planned. The world is not always neat, so...

**DO THE NEXT BEST THING AND USE GOOD JUDGMENT**

## THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

“There aren’t two categories of people.  
There aren’t some who were born to have everything,  
Leaving the rest with nothing,  
And a majority that has nothing and cannot taste the happiness that God has created for all.  
The Christian society that God wants is one in which we share the goodness that God has given  
for everyone.”  
- Archbishop Oscar Romero

“God calls everyone to holiness.  
God has very precise plans for each person,  
A personal vocation which each must recognize, accept, and develop”  
- Pontifical Council for the Family

All the Catholic laity are called to live the Beatitudes,  
To become leaven, salt and light for the world,  
And sometimes a “sign of contradiction” that challenges  
And transforms that world according to the mind of Christ.  
No one is called to impose religious beliefs on others,  
But to give the strong example of a life of justice and service,  
Resplendent with the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.”  
- Pope John Paul II

“Since God has first loved us (1 Jn 4:10), love is now no longer a mere command.  
Rather, it is the response to the gift of love with which God draws near to us.  
- Pope Benedict XVI

“If you want peace, work for justice.”  
- Pope Paul VI

“We are here to celebrate Him through works of mercy.”  
- Dorothy Day