

St. Andrew Parish

1899 McCoy Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220

Parish Office (614) 451-4290 • Fax (614) 451-8300 • www.standrewparish.cc

OFFICE HOURS ARE LIMITED AT THIS TIME.

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE FOR DETAILS OR TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 25, 2020

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil – 4:30 PM

Sunday – 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11:00 AM

Daily – 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM,

Saturday Morning – 9:00 AM

Holy Days – Vigil 7:00 PM & 12:15 PM

BAPTISMS

Celebrated every Sunday at 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM
by appointment only.

Baptism Preparation Classes have not resumed.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 3:15-4:15 PM in the Chapel. Please maintain 6 feet
social distancing while waiting; or anytime by appointment.
Please contact a parish priest for more information.

MATRIMONY

Please contact the Parish Office at least six months in
advance. A wedding date can only be set after meeting
with a priest or deacon.

RCIA

Classes start in the fall and run through Easter.

Please contact the RCIA Team at (614) 451-1129, ext. 120
or at rcia@standrewparish.cc.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesdays for Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament
beginning at 6:00 p.m. and concluding with
Compline & Benediction at 8:45 p.m.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact a priest at the Parish Office.



REGISTRATION

Please call the Parish Office to register in the parish.

Optionally, you may visit our website and follow the instructions for registration.

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners:

The last week of October is here--which means that Halloween is upon us. Halloween is a fun holiday --as long as we don't take it too seriously. "Halloween" is the abbreviated form of "All Hallows Eve," an old English way of saying "All Saints Eve." ("Hallow" means "holy," as in "hallowed be thy name.") I remember being taught that the Church established the Feast of All Saints on November 1st as a means of "baptizing" the pagan customs of the Druids in England at the time the Gospel was first brought to that territory. The Druids (I was told) believed that the spirits of the dead would appear on October 31. The Church (I was told) cleverly superimposed the Feast of All Saints on November 1st as a means of overcoming the superstitious pagan celebration with a Christian one. I have repeated this explanation of the origin of All Saints' day to others over the years. However, I recently checked into the origins of this feast on November 1st and found no trace of this explanation! I learned that a celebration in honor of all the saints may have its origin from the dedication of the

pantheon in Rome as a Christian church around the year 610. The temple of "all the gods" became the Church of "Santa Maria ad Martyres." That occurred on May 13, and that is when the feast was celebrated for many years. So how did the feast end up on November 1st? One theory is that Pope Gregory III dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's in Rome to All the Saints in the eighth century, and this may have occurred on November 1st. Gradually, the feast began to be celebrated on November 1st in other places including England. So who knows? But one thing is certain--we will celebrate All Saints Day next Sunday, November 1st--the day after the secular and spooky observance of Halloween. I hope your Halloween is fun, safe, and not too scary. And may your true hope be fixed firmly on your heavenly home, where we hope to come at last and dwell with all the saints!

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney

Live the
Gospel of *Life*

"to imitate Christ and
follow in his footsteps"

October is Respect Life Month

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BAPTISMS

Camila Eckel, daughter of Vincent & Ashley

REST IN PEACE

Patricia Morrison

In Memory



Officer Daniel Dougherty died September 15, 2020 from COVID-19. Dan was a retired police officer for the Upper Arlington Police Department.

St. Andrew Parishioners may remember Officer Dougherty's

familiar face providing traffic duty and as visible security presence at Masses and parish activities for decades, stretching back to the days of Monsignor Schulz. Once he retired from the police department, he continued to provide Special Duty services at St. Andrew. Please keep the family & friends of Officer Dougherty in your prayers.

**SUNDAY OFFERTORY**

	10/11/20	YTD
Actual	\$27,000	\$418,000
Budget	\$26,120	\$470,826
Last Year	\$29,353	\$516,705

Thank you for your continued support. We are grateful for your generosity.

We encourage those still using envelopes to either place them in the baskets located near the exits on your way out after Mass, mail them to the parish office or sign up for your bank's online bill pay service (please use your envelope number as the "account" number). Send to St. Andrew Parish 1899 McCoy Rd. Columbus OH 43220.

St. Andrew Parish would like to thank the increasing number families who are currently giving electronically. You may not see these fellow parishioners place an envelope in the basket every week, but their consistent giving does not go unnoticed in our parish office. Not only does it allow us to process the contributions quickly, but no physical contact is required. Each month our parish receives a steady and predictable stream of income from those donors who have made the commitment to give to God first by having a designated contribution automatically transferred to our parish through our Online Giving Program. If you would like to learn more about this easy, safe and secure way of giving, please visit Our Sunday Visitor at osvonlinegiving.com/4150. If you need help getting started, please do not hesitate to call our Business Manager, Ann Whiteman at 614-451-4290 ex 102 or via email at awhiteman@standrewparish.cc

Offering Baskets

Available for your convenience to accept weekend donations from parishioners & visitors.

Drop your offering in any of the baskets before or after Mass.

Thank You
for your continued support of
St. Andrew Parish.

Located:

- Near the last pew on the center aisle
- Near the front pews on the outside aisles

**STAFF DIRECTORY****CLERGY**

614-451-4290

Msgr. Stephan Moloney, Pastor 101

Rev. William Ferguson, Parochial Vicar x103

Rev. Mr. Thomas M. Berg, Jr., Perm. Deacon

Rev. William DeVille, In Holy Service

whd22@aol.com

PARISH OFFICE

614-451-4290

Ann Whiteman, Business Administrator

Ext 102 awhiteman@standrewparish.cc

Greg Price, Buildings Superintendent

Ext 105 gprice@standrewparish.cc

Philip Lortz, Director of Music

614-451-1839 plortz@standrewparish.cc

Rhonda Gora, Accounting Assistant

Ext 106 rgora@standrewparish.cc

Mary Beasecker, Safe Environment & Website Coordinator

Ext 104 mbeasecker@standrewparish.cc

Kelly Nasdeo, Parish Secretary

Ext 100 knasdeo@standrewparish.cc

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

614-451-2855

Suzie Emsweller, Director of Religious Education

Ext 304 semswell@cdeducation.org

Sally Shough, Administrative Assistant

Ext 141

Kathy Dowler

Coordinator of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Ext 305 kdowler@standrewparish.cc

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION STAFF

614-451-1626

Joel Wichtman, Principal

Ext 234 jwichtma@cdeducation.org

Marie Raynes, Assistant Principal

Ext 235 mraynes@cdeducation.org

Julie Strayer, Administrative Assistant

Ext 223 jstrayer@cdeducation.org

Heather Roush, School Secretary

Ext 228 hroush@cdeducation.org

Chuck Rekow, Marketing & Enrollment

Ext 222 crekow@cdeducation.org

Kyletta Scheirmann, Latchkey

Ext 105 kscheirmann@cdeducation.org

BRYCE ECK ACTIVITY CENTER

614-459-1402

Kathy Barger, Bryce Eck Facility Manager

Ext 2 kbarger@standrewparish.cc

Annie Stephas, Preschool Director

Ext 3 astephas1@cdeducation.org

Andrea McClymont, Youth Ministry

Ext 1 amcclymont@standrewparish.cc

HOLY MASS MASS INTENTIONS

Vigil for 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30 Deceased Members of the Bender & Berwanger Families

Sunday: October 25 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 Veronica Valentino
9:15 Rita Meleragno
11:00 For the People of St. Andrew

Monday: October 26

6:30 Tom Dowler
8:30 Hilary & Gertrude Beth

Tuesday: October 27

6:30 Stella Amicon Pardi
8:30 Leurte Dufour

Wednesday: October 28

6:30 Fr. Steve Baumbusch
8:30 Alexander Cianelli

Thursday: October 29

6:30 Anthony Pusateri
8:30 Curtis Condike

Friday: October 30

6:30 John Hume & Family
8:30 For the Intentions of St. Andrew SVdP Benefactors

Saturday: October 31

9:00 Stephen Hardesty

Vigil for All Saints

4:30 Deceased members of the Paskell Family

Sunday: November 1 - All Saints

7:30 Scott A. Smith
9:15 Michelle Pappa
11:00 Catherine Bucher

THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN

by "Jackie", Fr. Ferguson's Cat

Hi boys and girls! My name is "Jackie", and as you know, I am Father Ferguson's cat! I bet you already know that this week is going to include the special day called "Halloween"! That's right! Halloween is a day when we normally think of dressing up in costumes and going around gathering candy at neighbors' houses. That's nice to do, but sadly a lot of people forget the real meaning of Halloween. A lot of folks think of Halloween as a "spooky" day complete with ghosts, zombies, haunted houses, and evil black cats. But that's not what Halloween is all about! And I am a black cat....and I am definitely not evil!

Did you know that "Halloween" is an Old English word that comes from the phrase "All Hallows' Eve"? That means the night before (the "Eve"...October 31st) of a special holy day for us Catholics: "All Hallows' Day" or "All Saints Day"...which we celebrate every year on November 1st! ("Hallowed" means to be "holy" or "saintly", like when we say in the 'Our Father': "Hallowed be thy Name!") So, Halloween is definitely NOT about dead ghosts or zombies or evil black cats, but Halloween should REALLY be all about celebrating the life and holiness and happy friendship of all the Saints!....(....and friendly, good black cats like me!) So, boys and girls, this year for Halloween, instead of dressing up as a depressing ghost or zombie of death,

why not dress up as your favorite Saint of life! After all, the Saints are all still very much alive in Heaven praying for you to grow up as holy and happy kittens....errr.....kids! Maybe this year I'll dress up as St. Francis, who loved all animals like us cats. And when you go door to door to ask for your candy and tuna (like I will), wish everyone a "Happy Halloween!" Stay holy, and have a "purr"-fect week!



MEN'S EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR

A special invitation to *all* men of the parish and their families is extended for Eucharistic Exposition on **Tuesday, October 27, from 8-9 p.m.** in the Church. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Holy Rosary will be prayed followed at 8:45 p.m. with Compline and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Make time to be in Christ's presence and open yourself to the graces which flow from the Eucharist!





St Vincent de Paul Society

BLANKETS, SHEETS, TOWELS, SCARVES, MITTENS, GLOVES
AND HATS COLLECTION

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31st & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1st

Next weekend, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting new or gently used blankets, sheets, or towels for distribution to the homeless and needy at the SVdP Clothing Center downtown. Also, scarves, mittens, gloves and hats (both children and adult sizes) will be collected to help keep the less fortunate warm this winter.

All donated items can be dropped off at the SVdP truck parked in the McCoy Road parking lot on Saturday, Oct. 31, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm, and on Sunday, Nov. 1, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please take your donated items in plastic bags. Also, when dropping off your donations at the truck, be sure to wear masks and keep appropriate distance from other persons.

ST. ANDREW

FRIDAY NIGHT Family Addiction Support Group

WHEN

Friday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WHERE

Join ZOOM Meeting

www.us02web.zoom.us/j/82413905635

Meeting ID 824 1390 5635

LEADER

Doug Davis 614-326-7295

davis29@columbus.rr.com

We invite all to share support, personal struggles, experience, knowledge, and fellowship with other families who have known the family disease of addiction. Our primary goal is the practice of sharing, caring, and service to others.

THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

We are conducting
business by phone
& email. Please
consult the directory
listed in the bulletin
or visit the parish
website for staff
contact information.

Monday - Thursday
10:00 a.m.
to
1:00 p.m.



**ST. ANDREW YM
MIDDLE
SCHOOL BOYS
ADVENTURE DAY WITH
WILDERNESS
OUTREACH**

*Saturday, November 21st at
Damascus Mission Campus
Register at linktr.ee/firstcalled*



St. Andrew Knights of Columbus Council #11275 is holding their semiannual "Support Our Seminarians" (SOS) Campaign. This campaign supports seminarians and promotes priestly vocations within the Columbus Diocese. Council #11275 & St. Andrew parish has emerged as one of Ohio's leaders in this important program. Contact Council Faith Director Damion Faulkner at 614-738-9591 or at damionfaulkner97@gmail.com for more info.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:

By Check:

Payable to "St. Andrew Council 11275" with "SOS" in the memo line. Please mark your envelope "K of C SOS".

Checks can be placed in any weekend offering basket or mailed to the parish office.

Thank you!

GIVE ONLINE:

tinyurl.com/standrewSOS

OR SCAN HERE:



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is now being offered in (2) locations:
The Chapel & the Parlor.

Those waiting in line must remain 6 FT from others waiting. You may also call to make an appointment:
614-451-4290 ext 101 or 103

CONFESSIONS
AVAILABLE SATURDAYS
3:15 - 4:15

Each family may have 10 people in attendance. This number includes the clergy, parents of the child & godparents.

If you would like to schedule your child for baptism, email the parish secretary
knasdeo@standrewparish.cc

BAPTISMS
AVAILABLE SUNDAYS
12 PM & 1 PM
BY APPOINTMENT

Due to the continuing uncertainty & persistent spread of the COVID 19 virus, we are not accepting reservations for the use or rental of any of the parish facilities at this time.

FACILITIES
& ROOM
RESERVATIONS

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Do we really understand how important our relationships with our brothers and sisters throughout the world truly are? Many give God's commandment to love your neighbor and yourself a congenial glance of approval and agreement without really thinking about the implications. Sometimes it is easier to kneel in reverence before the tabernacle in a church than to kneel in reverence before the tabernacle of another person's soul. Witnessing and being consumed by the Divine Power alive in the heart of every living being transforms not only how we see our brothers and sisters but how we see God Himself. The cries of the poor and those who are hurting must echo in our hearts. We can no longer be deaf to the world's pain. It is no longer acceptable to judge others, unduly criticize, or marginalize, neglect, abuse, manipulate, or participate in the exploitation of anyone! We are asked to become hypersensitive to not only what we are doing, but why we are doing it. This holds true not only with regard to the daily conduct of our lives but our economic and corporate relationships and policies as well.

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What Happens if Someone Drops a Consecrated Host?

Answer:

Despite our best efforts, and this is as true in our liturgical celebrations as in all of life, accidents happen. Occasionally at Mass, a host may be dropped or some of the Precious Blood could even be spilled from the chalice, despite the best efforts of the priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion assisting at the liturgy.

So, when a host is dropped or the Precious Blood is spilled, we can take guidance from the U.S. Bishops' statement *Norms for the Distribution for Holy Communion Under Both Kinds*:

All ministers of Holy Communion should show the greatest reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist by their demeanor, their attire, and the manner in which they handle the consecrated bread or wine. Should there be any mishap — as when, for example, the consecrated wine is spilled from the chalice — then the affected "area . . . should be washed with water, and this water should be then poured into the sacrarium."

According to no. 280 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, the general rule is that a dropped host is picked up by the minister distributing Communion and reverently consumed. The minister should be careful to make sure that no other particles from the host remain on the ground. As we see in the instruction from the bishops, the Precious Blood would be absorbed (customarily with a purificator) and the area attentively and reverently washed with water which would then be disposed of properly.





PONTIFICAL COLLEGE
JOSEPHINUM

Golf Cart Donations to the Josephinum

The Maintenance Department at the Pontifical College Josephinum is in need of pre-owned golf carts for their various activities on campus. If you have a golf cart you would like to donate, please call 614-985-2230 so that arrangements can be made to deliver the cart before December 31. The Josephinum will provide the necessary documentation for your donation. Thank you!

ALL CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEONS CANCELED FOR REMAINDER OF 2020

Due to the restrictions in place because of the coronavirus, the Catholic Men's Luncheon is cancelled for the remainder of 2020. The Luncheon Club will return in 2021 once we can again meet safely at Columbus St. Patrick Church on the first Friday of the month after the 11:45 am mass. Plans are being formulated for the 2020 Catholic Man of the Year Award. We will publish nominating information and timing once the details are finalized. Upon the return of meetings we plan to complete Fr. Stash Dailey's Special 4-Part Series, Re-Building a Christian Culture which the virus shutdown interrupted. So keep your first Friday lunch times open in 2021.



Hope and Healing Mass Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 11:00 AM

The Conventual Franciscans of Our Lady of Consolation welcome you to our Hope and Healing Mass on **Saturday, November 7th at 11:00 AM**. There will be an opportunity at the end of Mass for you to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or if you're coming on behalf of a loved one, for you to be touched with a Relic of the True Cross.



Cemetery Sunday Prayer Services are cancelled for this year at St. Joseph, Resurrection, Holy Cross and Mt. Calvary cemeteries due to COVID restrictions.

SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS

The practice of requesting a Mass to be offered for a loved one – living or deceased – is a beautiful and wonderful part of our Catholic tradition and to ensure all who wish to schedule a Mass for loved ones may do so, please note our Mass Intention Policy:

- † All Mass Intention requests should be made in writing must be accompanied by payment. While you may call or email to check the availability of certain dates or times, requests will not be finalized and will not be reserved until payment is received.
- † Only one intention (person) per Mass is permitted, however for pastoral concerns to better accommodate the needs of parishioners, two first names (David & Catherine Smith) or two last names (Davis & Smith Families) are acceptable.
- † Once scheduled, we will send a list of the Masses scheduled for your records. **Please allow 5-7 days for processing from the date your request was received.**
- † Families may schedule up to twelve (12) Masses per year with four (4) of those on weekends. Additional Masses will be accepted, but these will be scheduled when dates are available throughout the year on a rotating basis.
- † Questions? Please email the parish secretary at knasdeo@standrewparish.cc or call the parish office at 614-451-4290

In your request include:

1. Your name & contact information (email and/or phone number)
2. The name of the person for whom the Mass is being offered/requested (and whether they are living or deceased)
3. The date(s) and time(s) requested for each Mass. You may include an alternative date or time for us to check if the original date/time is not available. *We will do our best to honor the dates/times requested, but unfortunately, no date or time can be guaranteed*
4. A check made payable to St. Andrew Parish. As per Diocesan policy, a \$10 stipend per Mass is to accompany each request. Please write the words "Mass Intention" in the memo line of your check. Please do not send cash through the mail or leave it in any unsecured location.
5. If you would like Mass cards to send to friends or family, please list the number of cards you would like & they will be mailed to the address you provide.

Send your request to:
St. Andrew Catholic Church
Attn: Mass Intentions
1899 McCoy Rd
Columbus OH 43220

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



Part I of II: Our Call as Catholic Citizens

This brief document is Part I of a summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship is the teaching document of the Catholic Bishops of the United States on the political responsibility of Catholics. It provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens. As Catholics, we bring the richness of our faith to the public square. We draw from both faith and reason as we seek to affirm the dignity of the human person and the common good of all.

Everyone living in this country is called to participate in public life and contribute to the common good.¹ In *Rejoice and Be Glad* [*Gaudete et exsultate*], Pope Francis writes:

Your identification with Christ and his will involves a commitment to build with him that kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. . . . You cannot grow in holiness without committing yourself, body and soul, to giving your best to this endeavor.²

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world.

Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34).

The US Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to proclaim and live out their faith without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning its moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

Who in the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to any political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. This should not discourage us. On the contrary, it makes our obligation to act all the more urgent. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and

become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good. Faithful citizenship is an ongoing responsibility, not just an election year duty.

How Can Catholic Social Teaching Help Guide Our Participation?

In the words of Pope Francis, "progress in building a people in peace, justice and fraternity depends on four principles related to constant tensions present in every social reality. These derive from the pillars of the Church's social doctrine, which serve as 'primary and fundamental parameters of reference for interpreting and evaluating social phenomena.'"³ The four principles include the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. Taken together, these principles provide a moral framework for Catholic engagement in advancing what we have called a "consistent ethic of life" (*Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 22).

Rightly understood, this ethic does not treat all issues as morally equivalent; nor does it reduce Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following summary of the four principles highlights several themes of Catholic social teaching for special consideration: these include **human rights and responsibilities, respect for work and the rights of workers, care for God's creation, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**⁴

The Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred because every person is created in the image and likeness of God. There is a rich and multifaceted Catholic teaching on human dignity summarized in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. Every human being "must always be understood in his unrepeatable and inviolable uniqueness . . . This entails above all the requirement not only of simple respect on the part of others, especially political and social institutions and their leaders with regard to every man and woman on the earth, but even more, this means that the primary commitment of each person towards others, and particularly of these same institutions, must be for the promotion and integral development of the person" (no. 131). The *Compendium* continues, "It is necessary to 'consider every neighbor without exception as another self, taking into account first of all his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity' (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 27).

Every political, economic, social, scientific and cultural program must be inspired by the awareness of the primacy of each human being over society.”⁵

Subsidiarity

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the family, groups, associations, and local realities—in short, for those economic, social, cultural, recreational, professional, and political communities to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth.⁶ The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

The principle of subsidiarity reminds us that larger institutions in society should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local institutions; yet larger institutions have essential responsibilities when the more local institutions cannot adequately protect human dignity, meet human needs, and advance the common good.⁷

The Common Good

The common good is comprised of “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.”⁸

Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if **human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met**. Every human being has a right to life, a right to religious freedom, and a right to have access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to ourselves, to our families, and to the larger society.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. An economic system must serve the dignity of the human person and the common good by **respecting the dignity of work and protecting the rights of workers**. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, a broad and fair legalization program with a path to citizenship for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity. Workers also have responsibilities—to provide a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay, to treat employers and coworkers with respect, and to carry out their work in ways that contribute to the common good. Workers, employers, and unions should not only advance their own interests but also work together to advance economic justice and the well-being of all.

We have a duty to **care for God’s creation**, which Pope Francis refers to in *Laudato Si’* as “our common home.”⁹ We all are called to be careful stewards of God’s creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future. Pope Francis, consistent with St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI (World Day of Peace Message, 1990 and 2010), has lifted up pollution, climate change, lack of access to clean water, and the loss of biodiversity as particular challenges. Pope Francis speaks of an “ecological debt” (no. 51) owed by wealthier nations to developing nations. And he calls all of us to an “ecological conversion” (no. 219), by which “the effects of [our] encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in [our] relationship with the world around [us]”.¹⁰ Indeed, this concern with “natural ecology” is an indispensable part of the broader “human ecology,” which encompasses not only material but moral and social dimensions as well.

Solidarity

Solidarity is “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to . . . the good of all and of each individual, because we are *all* really responsible for *all*.” It is found in “a commitment to the good of one’s neighbor with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to ‘lose oneself’ for the sake of the other instead of exploiting him, and to ‘serve him’ instead of oppressing him for one’s own advantage.”¹¹

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

In a special way, our solidarity must find expression in the **preferential option for the poor and vulnerable**. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor, and the marginalized.

Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, the bishops vigorously repeat their call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the promotion of human life and dignity, and the pursuit of the common good. Political participation in this spirit reflects not only the social teaching of our Church but the best traditions of our nation.

Notes

- 1 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 1913-15.
- 2 *Gaudete et Exsultate*, no. 25.
- 3 *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 221.
- 4 These principles are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005), no. 160. For more information on these principles, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2016, nos. 40ff.
- 5 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 132. This summary represents only a few highlights from the fuller treatment of the human person in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. For the fuller treatment, see especially nos. 124-159 where many other important aspects of human dignity are treated.
- 6 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 185.
- 7 *Centesimus Annus*, no. 48; *Dignitatis Humanae*, nos. 4-6.
- 8 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 164.
- 9 *Laudato Si’*, no. 77.
- 10 *Laudato Si’*, no. 217.
- 11 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 193. (See Mt 10:40-42, 20:25; Mk 10:42-45; Lk 22:25-27)

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