

Catholic Social Teaching

with Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley



"The quality of the charity of the Church is what evangelizes."

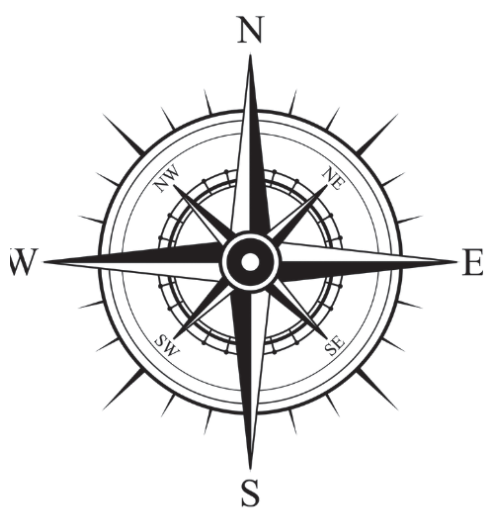
-Bishop Daniel E. Flores

Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (CCRGV) is the charitable arm of the Diocese of Brownsville. Our goal is to go out to the peripheries of our community and serve the most vulnerable, the forgotten and rejected. Every program CCRGV implements to serve our community is rooted in Catholic Social Teaching.

But what exactly is Catholic Social Teaching?

Catholic Social Teaching is a compass both Catholics and non-Catholics can use to guide their decisions and actions to work towards building the common good. This compass was first introduced by the Hebrew prophets who proclaimed God's special love towards the poor and called God's people to a covenant of love and justice and was later incarnated in Jesus Christ, who identified himself with the "hungry and the stranger." (Mt.25:45)

Catholic Social Teaching is built on Christ's deep commitment to the poor, in which he invites us to participate every time we approach him in the Eucharist. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren." (No.1397)



To be Eucharistic people means to walk and talk Catholic Social Teaching.

Catholic Social Teaching is divided into seven themes:

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity
- Care for God's Creation

Life and dignity of the human person



Generalmente escuchamos la frase "los niños son la esperanza del mundo", y al recibir a las familias, después de un doloroso caminar, nos da gusto, ver como gozan y agradecen los pequeños detalles. Te abrazan y ríen con alegría.

-Rosa Pallais

When we refer to a being using the word "human," we unconsciously express the truth that (s)he has an inviolable dignity — a dignity that comes from the simple fact of being created by God, a truth which automatically makes a human being someone rather than something. As Bishop Flores has proclaimed on several occasions, "People are not statistics." People are individuals who reflect the image and likeness of God. Human beings are called to enter into community with others. The whole essence of Catholic Social Teaching is rooted in this truth: "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them". Gen 1:27.

Each human being is an unrepeatable creation, which should be treated with the greatest amount of respect. This divine requirement applies most especially to both political and private institutions who have a special call to foster the full development of every person, and their freedom. The common good can only be reached "juntos" respecting every human person, building a just economy, a just political system and a just society in which every human being is seen as an end of itself rather than a means for reaching a goal.



Moved by the love and compassion of others



"I am often moved by people who go out of their way to show compassion toward another person. Re-

cently at the Humanitarian Respite Center a family arrived, a father with his wife and small child. My staff pointed to the nice tennis shoes he was wearing and asked him how he got them.

"The young father shared that when he and his family were apprehended after they crossed into the United States, a Border Patrol agent looked down and saw his feet blistered and bleeding and asked him, "¿Qué te pasó?" Why are your feet like that?

"The young father shared how they walked for days and days to the

point the shoes he had were no good and his feet blistered and bled from all the walking. The Border Patrol agent was moved to tears and quickly went to get his own tennis shoes which he had in his car. He then took off the socks he was wearing and put them on the young father.

"Our Catholic Social Teachings speak to us of the dignity of the human person. The Border Patrol agent like many others like him who perform actions of love and compassion toward our brothers and sisters in distress are upholding the dignity and respect of a human person. God created us in his image and likeness. Every human life is sacred and must be protected and treated with respect. Showing kindness toward someone who has been stripped of everything is our way of restoring their dignity."

-Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ



Call to Action

- Every human being reflects a special characteristic of God. What characteristic of God do your grandparents represent?
- How can you contribute towards the common good this week?
- How can you ensure you are participating in building a more just community?
- How do you show respect to your friends?

If you would like to volunteer with us, please call our office at (956) 702-4088 or email our volunteer coordinator at volunteercoordinator@cdob.org