



# Catholic Social Teaching

*Principles,*

*Two Feet of Love in Action,  
and the Laudato Si' Goals*





# Two Feet of Love in Action

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

### **REMOVE ROOT CAUSES IMPROVE STRUCTURES**

- Expand access to affordable housing
- Work to improve the education system
- Extend legal protection to unborn children
- Support environmental protection laws
- Participate in a living wage campaign
- Promote peace
- Advocate for international assistance

## **CHARITABLE WORKS**

### **MEET BASIC NEEDS AID INDIVIDUALS**

- Volunteer at homeless shelters
- Tutor children
- Assist women who face a crisis pregnancy
- Participate in a community beautification program
- Donate to food pantries and clothing closets
- Sponsor a refugee family
- Raise money for an overseas development project

*"You are not making a gift of what is yours to the poor man, but you are giving him back what is his.*

*You have been appropriating things that are meant to be for the common use of everyone. The earth belongs to everyone, not to the rich."*

**- St. Ambrose, *Populorum Progressio*, #23,  
1967**

“Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs...

The demands of justice must be satisfied first of all; that which is already due in justice is not to be offered as a gift of charity.”

**- St. John Chrysostom**

“The equal dignity of human persons requires the effort to reduce excessive social and economic inequalities. It gives urgency to the ***elimination*** of sinful inequalities.”

- **Catechism of the Catholic Church, art. 1947**

# The BIG Idea:

People of faith are called

not only to *counteract* unjust politics and economics through charitable works

**but also**

to *transform* those unjust systems to eradicate the suffering that creates a need for charitable works.



# Principles of Catholic Social Teaching



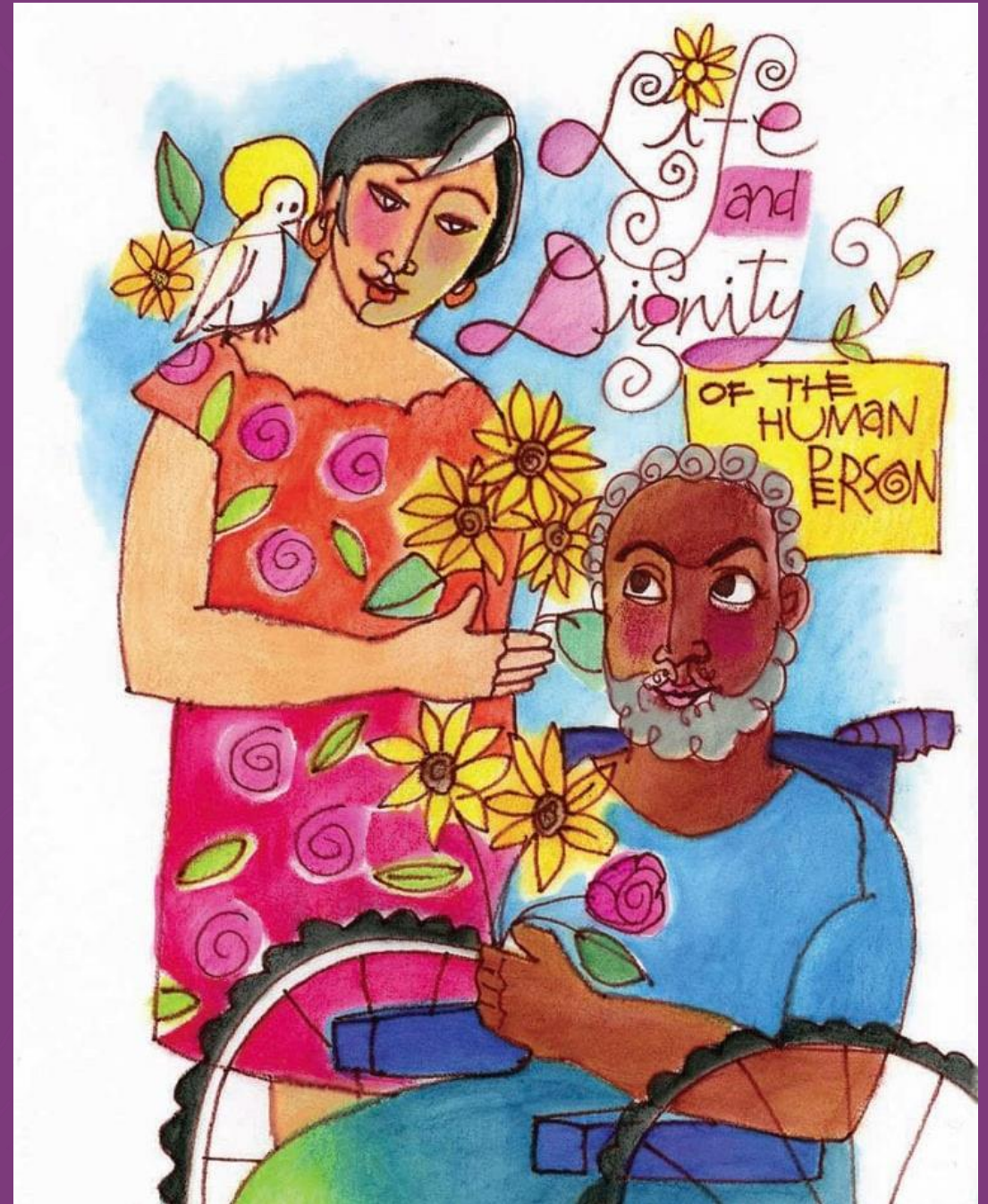
# Human Dignity

We are called:

- To give (in thought, word, and deed) the respect and love inherently due to every human as a sacred child of God
- To uphold the inherent (i.e. unearned) rights of all people to access to the basic necessities required for a dignified life (food, water, shelter...)

"If we are to share our lives with others and generously give of ourselves, we also have to realize that every person is worthy of our giving. God created that person in [God's own] image, and he or she reflects something of God's glory. Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness, and [God] is present in their lives."

*Pope Francis: Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel (paragraph 274), 2013*



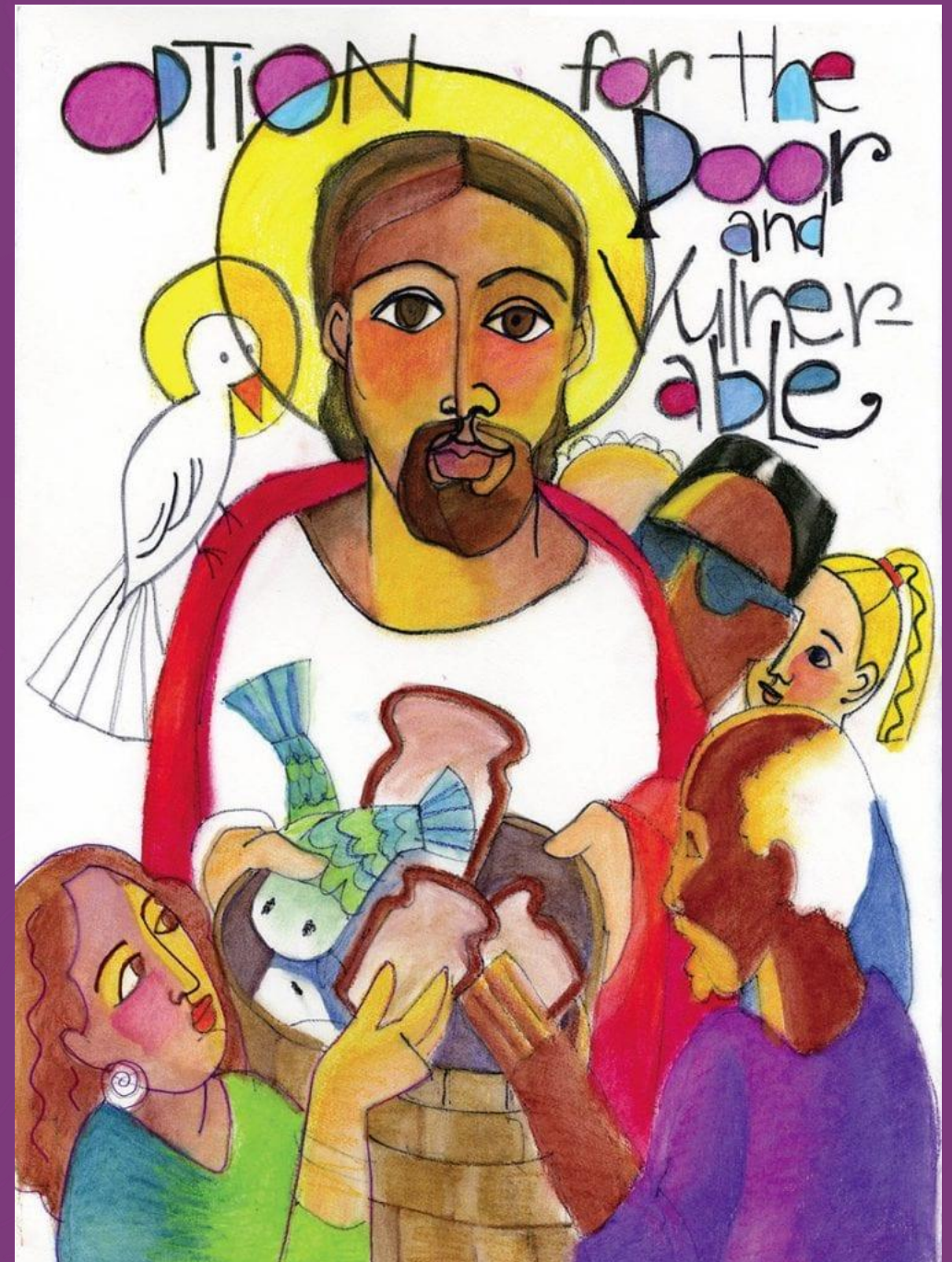
# Preferential Option for the Poor & Vulnerable

We are called:

- To feed the hungry, offer hospitality to the stranger, clothe the naked, look after the sick, and visit those imprisoned
- To consider the impact of our own decisions and of public policy on the most vulnerable members of society
- To use whatever social power we possess to lift the voices of those who are forgotten or excluded and create opportunities for their leadership and agency

"Our tradition calls us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. As Christians, we are called to respond to the needs of all our sisters and brothers, but those with the greatest needs require the greatest response."

*Cardinal Thomas Williams, We are Our Brother's Keeper, 1991*



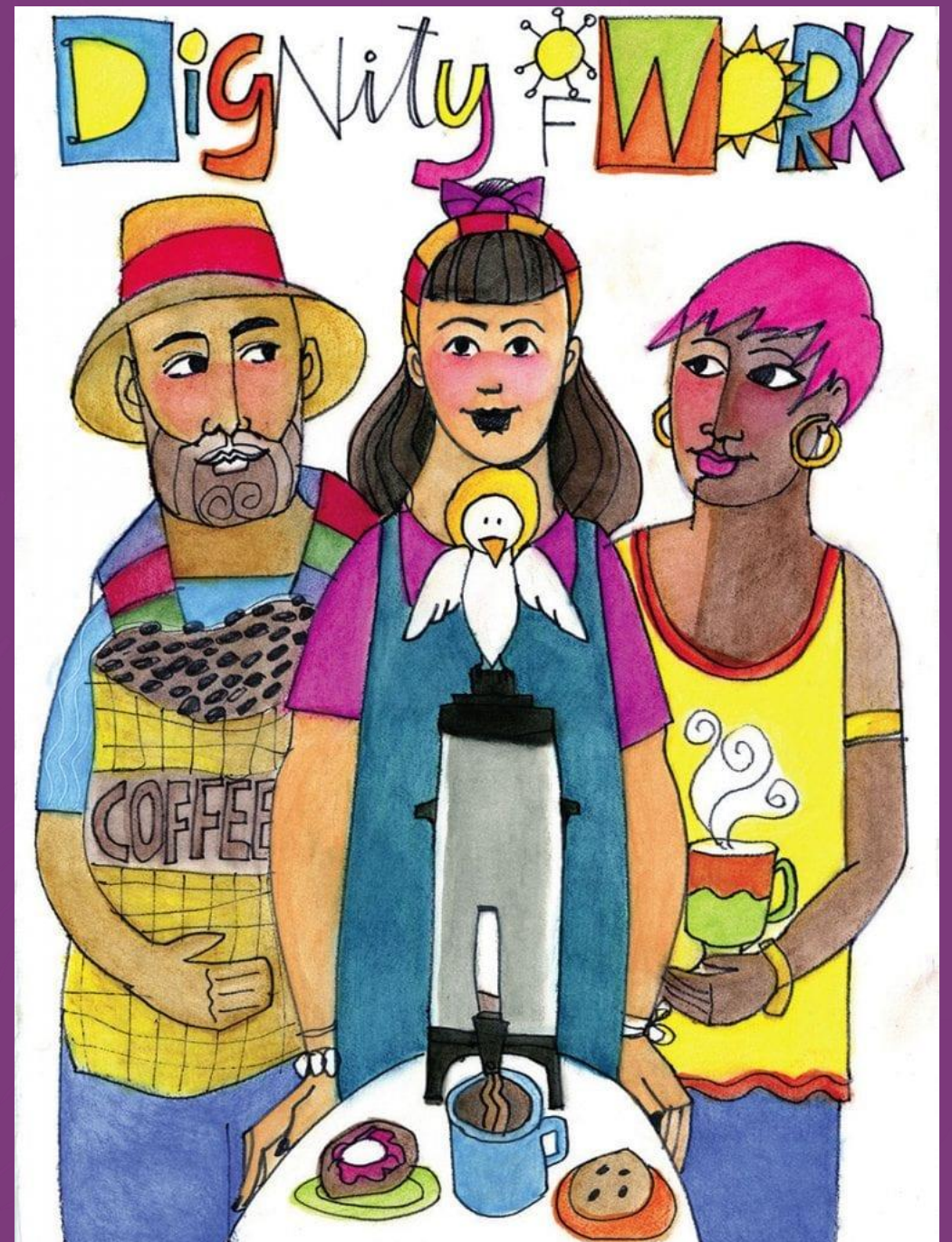
# Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers

We are called:

- To uphold the truth that people are not objects in service of economies but that economies are meant to serve people
- To promote the understanding of work as a sacred undertaking and a form of ongoing participation in God's creation
- To defend the rights of workers to working conditions, wages, and protections that reflect their contribution to God's ongoing creation

"Work is a necessity, part of the meaning of life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfillment. Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work."

*Pope Francis, Laudato Si' (127-28)*



# Subsidiarity: Call to Family, Community, Participation

We are called:

- To be active members of our local, national and global communities
- To recognise that we each have something unique and important to contribute to society
- To be inclusive in our parishes, places of ministry, our congregations, local communities, and our decision-making processes
- To ensure all people are given a voice in the creation of policies and plans that affect them

"Participation is a duty to be fulfilled consciously by all, with responsibility and with a view to the common good...it becomes absolutely necessary to encourage participation above all of the most disadvantaged..."

*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church (#189)*



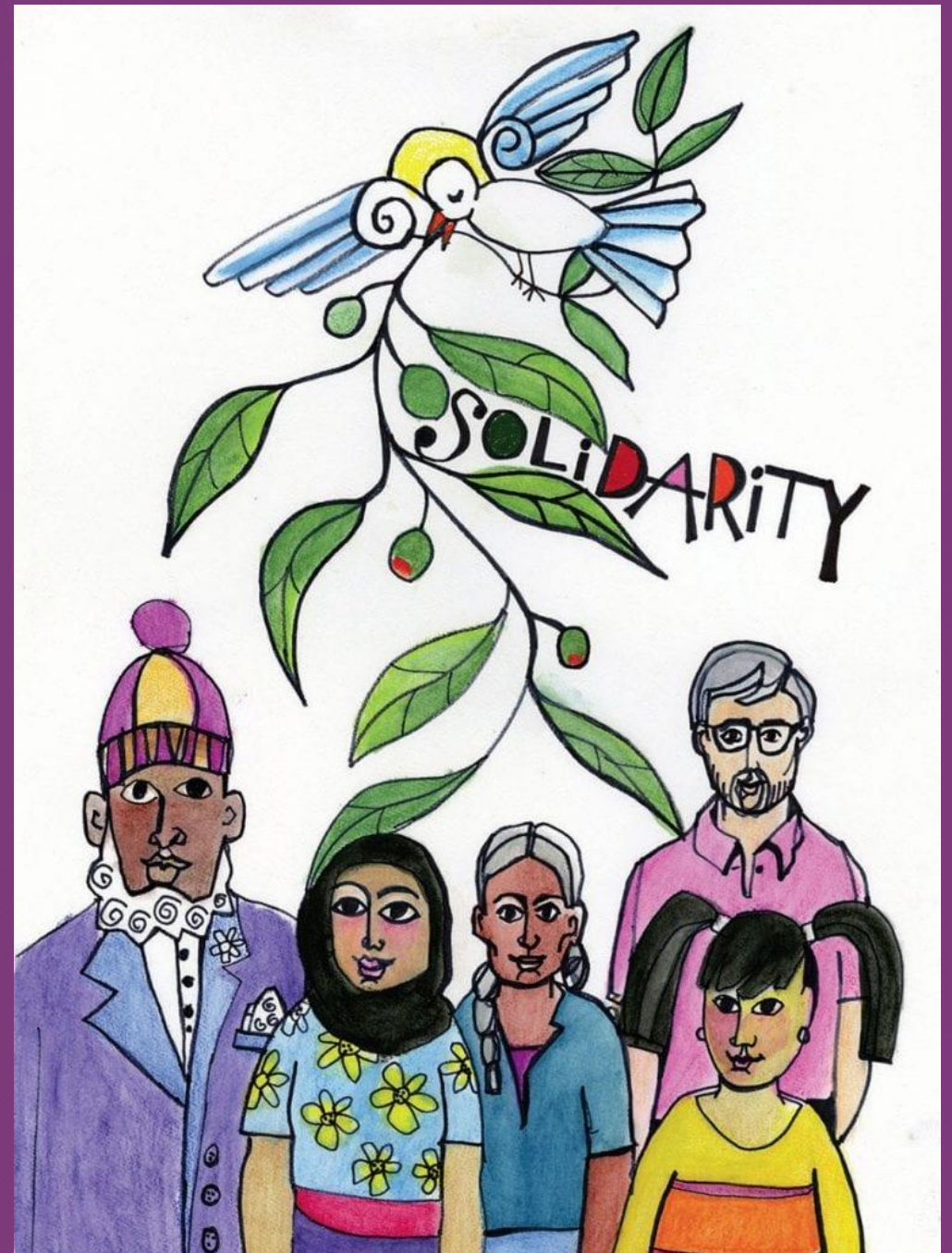
# Solidarity

We are called:

- To build relationships that help us to understand what life is like for others who are different from us; what life is like for the poorest, most vulnerable, most overlooked, wherever they are in the world
- To experience spiritual woundedness and hunger for change when we observe the suffering of others

"Solidarity is also an authentic moral virtue, not a 'feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good. That is to say to the good of all and of each individual.'"

*St John Paul II, as quoted in the Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching*



# Rights & Responsibilities

We are called:

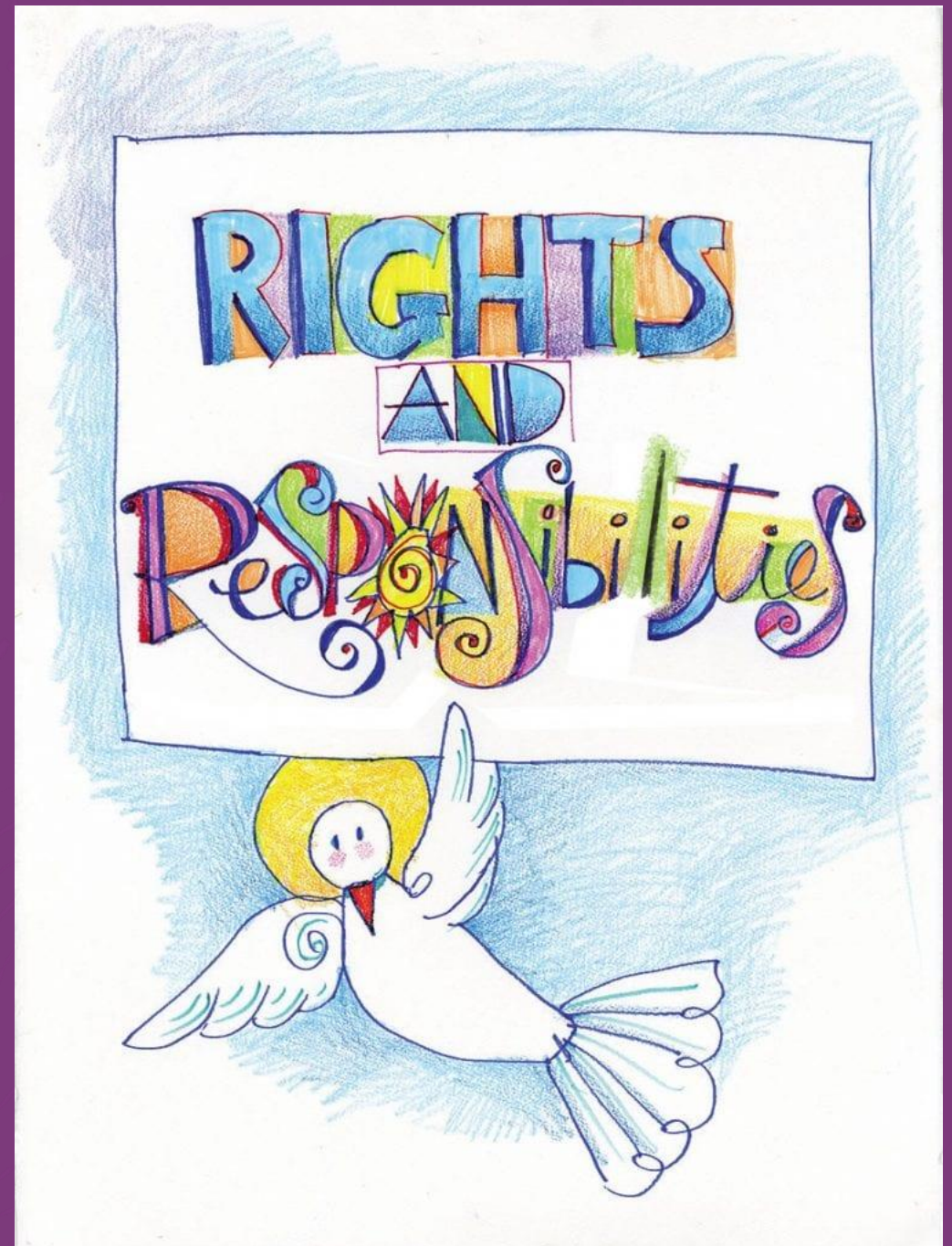
- To defend the rights of every person to life and to those things required for human decency (food, water, shelter...)
- To fulfill (and call upon our leaders to fulfill) our responsibilities to provide for these fundamental rights

"In human society one [person's] natural right gives rise to a corresponding duty in other [people]; the duty, that is, of recognizing and respecting that right...Hence, to claim one's rights and ignore one's duties, or only half fulfill them, is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other."

*St. John XXIII, Pacem in Terris (30)*

"As for the State . . . It has also the duty to protect the rights of all its people, and particularly of its weaker members, the workers, women and children. It can never be right for the State to shirk its obligation."

*St. John XXIII, Mater et Magistra (20)*



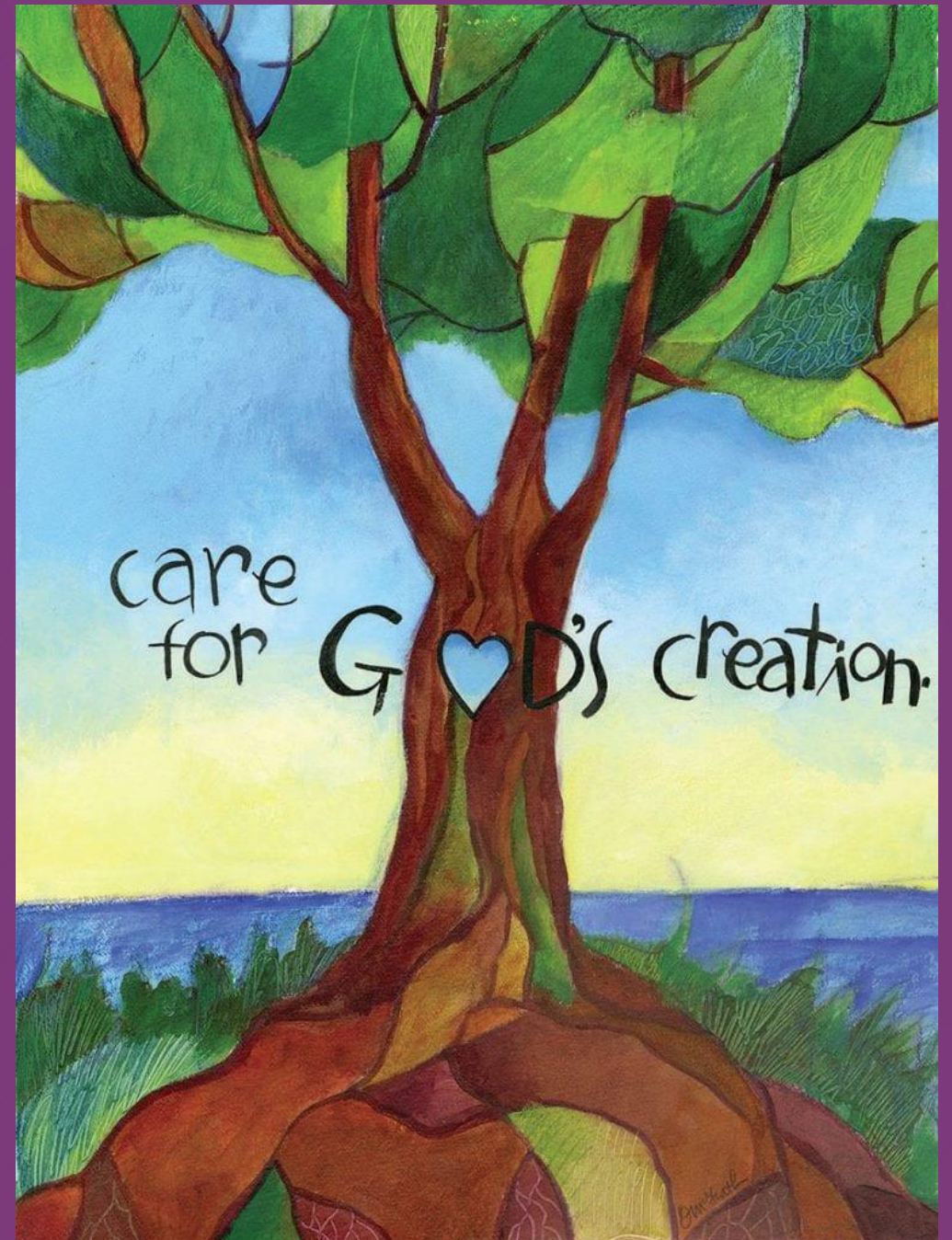
# Care for Creation

We are called:

- To develop our sense of our kinship with the earth and all living creatures
- To learn to live in harmonious partnership with our earth community rather than to exploit its gifts
- To recognize our responsibility to leave a life-sustaining environment to future generations

"... [N]owadays we must forcefully reject the notion that our being created in God's image and given dominion over earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures." *Pope Francis, Laudato Si' (67)*

"We received this world as an inheritance from past generations, but also as a loan from future generations, to whom we will have to return it!" *Pope Francis, Ecuador, July 7, 2015*



# The BIG Idea:

All living creatures are deeply connected and loved by God.

We are not free to turn a blind eye to the suffering of others. Nor can we be free of pain unless all are free of pain.

We hold all good and bad experiences in common. Let us act for the common *good*.



# The BIG Idea:

"So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."

*Romans 12:5*

"The whole is greater than the part, but it is also greater than the sum of its parts... We constantly have to broaden our horizons and see the greater good which will benefit us all. But this has to be done without evasion or uprooting... We can work on a small scale, in our own neighbourhood, but with a larger perspective."

*Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, #235, 2013*



**Catholic Social Teaching  
in the  
UN Sustainable Development Goals**



# Catholic Social Teaching Principles

- **Human dignity**
  - Subsidiarity: family, community, participation
  - Solidarity
  - Care for creation
  - Common good
- 

# The Dignity of the Human Person

We believe that every human person is created in the image of God. We recognise that every life is sacred and that every person has inherent dignity and worth. Our human rights and responsibilities are founded in our shared human dignity. It is impossible to live a life with dignity when there is poverty, hunger, inequality and injustice.

Catholic Social Teaching

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



# The Dignity of the Human Person

We believe that every human person is created in the image of God. We recognise that every life is sacred and that every person has inherent dignity and worth. Our human rights and responsibilities are founded in our shared human dignity. It is impossible to live a life with dignity when there is poverty, hunger, inequality and injustice.

Catholic Social Teaching



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

1 NO  
POVERTY



2 ZERO  
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION



5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES





# Catholic Social Teaching Principles

- Human dignity
  - **Subsidiarity: family, community, participation**
  - Solidarity
  - Care for creation
  - Common good
- 

# Subsidiarity

Every person has the right to participate in and contribute to decisions that affect their lives. We respect the capacity and abilities of each person. The people closest and most affected by the issues and concerns need to be part of the decision process.

Catholic Social Teaching

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





# Catholic Social Teaching Principles

- Human dignity
  - Subsidiarity: family, community, participation
  - **Solidarity**
  - Care for creation
  - Common good
- 



# Solidarity

We all belong to one human family and are deeply connected to each other. We stand in unity with others, particularly our sisters and brothers who are powerless and marginalised because we are affected by the joy and suffering of all. We recognise and promote the right of each person regardless of our national, religious, ethnic, political and ideological differences.

Catholic Social Teaching



# Solidarity

We all belong to one human family and are deeply connected to each other. We stand in unity with others, particularly our sisters and brothers who are powerless and marginalised because we are affected by the joy and suffering of all. We recognise and promote the right of each person regardless of our national, religious, ethnic, political and ideological differences.

Catholic Social Teaching

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





# Catholic Social Teaching Principles

- Human dignity
  - Subsidiarity: family, community, participation
  - Solidarity
  - **Care for creation**
  - Common good
- 

# Stewardship of creation

All of creation is God's gift to us. It is our responsibility to care for the earth and to share all its wonders and resources. We recognise that all of creation is interconnected. We humans are part of and depend on the environment. Pope Francis calls this "integral ecology."

Catholic Social Teaching



# Stewardship of creation

All of creation is God's gift to us. It is our responsibility to care for the earth and to share all its wonders and resources. We recognise that all of creation is interconnected. We humans are part of and depend on the environment. Pope Francis calls this "integral ecology."

Catholic Social Teaching



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

6 CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



13 CLIMATE  
ACTION



14 LIFE  
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE  
ON LAND





# Catholic Social Teaching Principles

- Human dignity
  - Subsidiarity: family, community, participation
  - Solidarity
  - Care for creation
  - **Common good**
- 

# The Common Good

Our right to personal possession and community resources must be balanced with the needs of the vulnerable and dispossessed. We have a responsibility for one another and are called to work for the common good of all. We need to advocate for a just society where all people, particularly the vulnerable and marginalised, are able to flourish and meet their needs.

Catholic Social Teaching



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# The Common Good

Our right to personal possession and community resources must be balanced with the needs of the vulnerable and dispossessed. We have a responsibility for one another and are called to work for the common good of all. We need to advocate for a just society where all people, particularly the vulnerable and marginalised, are able to flourish and meet their needs.

Catholic Social Teaching

