

Session 2

Catholic Social Teaching

Objective: Chatachists will be introduced to the Seven Themes on Catholic Social Teaching

Pre-lesson - "Do Something ", Matthew West

Procedure:

-Introductory class discussion-Why Catholic Social Teaching

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELyLdMIFdzA>

-Theme development

Form 7 teams

1. Each team develops a definition of the assigned Catholic Teaching
2. *Three* examples of ways the Teaching was shown during everyday life of team members.
3. Read the biographic summary and provide *one* important characteristic in which the Patron Saint demonstrates the social teaching.

Life and Dignity	St. Mary
Community	St. Maxamillian Kolbe
Rights and Responsibilities	St. Theresa of Calcutta
Poor and Vulnerable	St. John Neumann
Rights of Workers	St. Joseph (May Day)
Solidarity	St. Theresa Benedict of the Cross
Care of Creation	St. Francis of Assisi

4. Share results with class.

Post lesson discussion

Parting thought-What kind of person would you choose to be your confirmation patron saint. What does the son, "Do Something, have to do with Catholic Social Teaching?

Closing prayer: Spirit driven

Life and Dignity

St. Mary

Pope Pius XII declared this belief Catholic dogma in 1950. The four Catholic dogmas are: Mother of God, Perpetual virginity of Mary, the Immaculate Conception and Assumption of Mary. The feast of the Assumption is celebrated on August 15. The Assumption was the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life. According to Pope Pius XII, the Virgin Mary "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

Other feasts that commemorate events in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary are listed in the Appendices. Pope Pius XII dedicated the entire human race to Mary in 1944. The Church has long taught that Mary is truly the Mother of God .

The Blessed Virgin Mary may be taken as a patroness of any good activity, for she is often cited as the patroness of all humanity. Mary is also associated with protecting many occupations and locations.

Community

Maxamillian Kolbe

After the outbreak of [World War II](#), which started with [the invasion of Poland by Germany](#), Kolbe was one of the few brothers who remained in the monastery, where he organized a temporary hospital. After the town was captured by the Germans, he was briefly arrested by them on 19 September 1939 but released on 8 December. He refused to sign the [Deutsche Volksliste](#), which would have given him rights similar to those of German citizens in exchange for recognizing his German ancestry. Upon his release he continued work at his monastery, where he and other monks provided shelter to refugees from [Greater Poland](#), including 2,000 Jews whom he hid from German persecution in their [friary](#) in Niepokalanów. Kolbe also received permission to continue publishing religious works, though significantly reduced in scope. The monastery thus continued to act as a publishing house, issuing a number of anti-Nazi German publications. On 17 February 1941, the monastery was shut down by the German authorities. That day Kolbe and four others were arrested by the German [Gestapo](#) and imprisoned in the [Pawiak](#) prison. On 28 May, he was transferred to [Auschwitz](#) as prisoner #16670.

Continuing to act as a priest, Kolbe was subjected to violent harassment, including beating and lashings, and once had to be smuggled to a prison hospital by friendly inmates. At the end of July 1941, three prisoners disappeared from the camp, prompting the deputy camp commander, to pick 10 men to be starved to death in an underground bunker to deter further escape attempts. When one of the selected men, [Franciszek Gajowniczek](#), cried out, "My wife! My children!", Kolbe volunteered to take his place

Rights and Responsibilities

St. Theresa of Calcutta

The remarkable woman who would be known as Mother Theresa began life named Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Born on August 26, 1910 in Skopje. Her father died while she was only eight years old leaving her family in financial straits.

Gonxha's religious formation was assisted by the vibrant Jesuit parish of the Sacred Heart in which she was very involved as a youth.

She continued teaching at St. Mary's in India and in 1944 became the school's principal. Noted for her charity, unselfishness and courage, her capacity for hard work and a natural talent for organization, she lived out her consecration to Jesus, in the midst of her companions, with fidelity and joy.

It was on September 10, 1946 during a train ride from Calcutta to Darjeeling for her annual retreat, Mother Teresa received her "inspiration, her call within a call." On that day, in a way she would never explain, Jesus' thirst for love and for souls took hold of her heart and the desire to satiate His thirst became the driving force of her life.

By means of interior locutions and visions, Jesus revealed to her the desire of His heart for "victims of love" who would "radiate His love on souls." "Come be My light," He begged her. "I cannot go alone."

Jesus revealed His pain at the neglect of the poor, His sorrow at their ignorance of Him and His longing for their love. He asked Mother Teresa to establish a religious community, Missionaries of Charity, dedicated to the service of the poorest of the poor.

Poor and Vulnerable

St. John Neumann

John was appointed [bishop](#) of Philadelphia in 1852. As bishop, he was the first to organize a diocesan [Catholic](#) school system. A founder of [Catholic education](#) in this country, he increased the number of [Catholic schools](#) in his [diocese](#) from two to 100.

John never lost his love and concern for the people -- something that may have bothered the elite of Philadelphia. On one visit to a rural parish, the [parish priest](#) picked him up in a manure wagon. Seated on a plank stretched over the wagon's contents, [John](#) joked, "Have you ever seen such an entourage for a bishop!"

The ability to learn languages that had brought him to [America](#) led him to learn Spanish, French, Italian, and Dutch so he could hear confessions in at least six languages.

Rights of Workers

St. Joseph

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture and that has seemed too little for those who made up legends about him. We know he was a carpenter, a working man, for the skeptical Nazarenes ask about Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55). He wasn't rich for when he took Mary to be purified he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24).

Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew disagree some about the details of Joseph's genealogy but they both mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). Indeed the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for Jesus.

[Novena for Workers, the Unemployed and Underemployed](#)

We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God.

Solidarity

St. Theresa Benedict of the Cross

St. Theresa Benedict of the Cross (Edith Stein) was arrested by the Gestapo on 2 August 1942, while she was in the chapel with the other sisters. She was to report within five minutes, together with her sister Rosa, who had also converted and was serving at the Echt Convent. Her last words to be heard in Echt were addressed to Rosa: "Come, we are going for our people."

Together with many other Jewish Christians, the two women were taken to a transit camp in Amersfoort and then to Westerbork. This was an act of retaliation against the letter of protest written by the Dutch Roman Catholic Bishops against the pogroms and deportations of Jews. Edith commented, "I never knew that people could be like this, neither did I know that my brothers and sisters would have to suffer like this. ... I pray for them every hour. Will God hear my prayers? He will certainly hear them in their distress." Prof. Jan Nota, who was greatly attached to her, wrote later: "She is a witness to God's presence in a world where God is absent."

On 7 August, early in the morning, 987 Jews were deported to Auschwitz. It was probably on 9 August that Sister Teresia Benedicta a Cruce, her sister and many other of her people were gassed.

When Edith Stein was beatified in Cologne on 1 May 1987, the Church honoured "a daughter of Israel", remained faithful to the crucified Lord Jesus Christ and, as a Jew, to her people in loving faithfulness."

Care of Creation

St. Francis of Assisi

Francis never wanted to found a religious order -- this former knight thought that sounded too military. He thought of what he was doing as expressing God's brotherhood. His companions came from all walks of life, from fields and towns, nobility and common people, universities, the Church, and the merchant class. Francis practiced true equality by showing honor, respect, and love to every [person](#) whether they were beggar or pope.

Francis' brotherhood included all of God's creation. Much has been written about Francis' love of [nature](#) but his [relationship](#) was deeper than that. We call someone a lover of [nature](#) if they spend their free [time](#) in the woods or admire its beauty. But Francis really felt that nature, all God's creations, were part of his brotherhood. The sparrow was as much his brother as the pope.

**Session 2, Catholic Social Teaching
Team Response Guide**

Choose a recorder and a spokesperson from your team.

Team Names

Social Teaching

Saint Name _____

Definition _____

One way the saint carried out the social teaching (What did they DO?) _____

Three (3) Ways this teaching is shown in everyday life.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
