

Christian Service Reflection
(Please answer each question
completely, typed, double spaced,
12 point font, on a separate sheet of
paper)

1. What type of service(s) did you perform?
2. Did you work alone or with others?
3. Which of the seven themes of Catholic Social Justice did your service address? How?
4. Who are the poor and vulnerable you serve? How do you address their needs?
5. In what ways have you seen Christ in the “dear neighbor”? Be specific.
6. In what ways have you been the Body of Christ for the “dear neighbor”?
7. How have these experiences strengthened your relationship with God?
8. What have you learned about the mission to serve others?
9. In serving others what did you learn about yourself and the gifts you have? How are lives better because of your gifts and energy?
10. How are you bettered by putting your gifts at the service of God?

Synopsis of Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

These principles may be summarized as follows:

Dignity of the Human Person

All people are a reflection of the image of God and thus all human life, at all stages from conception through death, is sacred. The basic dignity that each person possesses comes from God; therefore all discrimination is wrong. People take precedence over things and structures. Systems are meant to serve people, not vice versa.

Community and the Common Good

The mystery of the trinity involves the relationship of complete love among the three divine persons- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit- in one God. As people made in God’s image, we must model divine love. Hence the human person is both sacred and fundamentally social. In community we realize the fulfillment of our dignity and rights in relationship with and to others.

Rights and Responsibilities

People have basic rights and responsibilities because of their human dignity that reflects the fact that they have been created in God’s image. Catholic teaching emphasizes that people have a right to life and to the basic necessities that provide quality to life: food, shelter, health care, education, and employment. We are called to respect the rights of others and to seek the common good.

Option for the Poor

The Gospel calls Christians to put the needs of poor first. A common moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable people. Wherever there is structural injustice, Christians are called to oppose it. Those with the greatest need especially require the greatest response.

Dignity of Work

Work is an expression of our dignity and of our involvement in God’s creation. People have a right to decent work, fair wages, and private property. The economy exists to serve people, not vice versa.

Solidarity

We are all one human family in the world. Because we realize our dignity, rights, and responsibilities, in relationship with others, we need to continue to build a community that empowers people to attain their full human potential. By working for justice, we fulfill our mandate to build the Body of Christ.

Caring for God’s Creation

God is present in all of creation as it reflects the Divine. Most especially He is present in mankind, His children who are made from love in His image. It is our responsibility to care for these renewable resources so they can provide for the needs of all. Stewardship includes caring for the health of all creation and thereby for the health of our brothers and sisters in Christ.