



# Catholic Social Thought

**“Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel” (Synod on Justice in the World, 1974).**

- Economic and political decisions must be based on human dignity
- The primacy of persons over things and of human labour over capital
  - Equality of man and woman
  - Preferential option for the poor
- Right to life and defence of the human person
- Constitutions must be based on the rights and responsibilities of each human person and nation
  - Promote the good of all because we are all responsible for all
- Right of government to intervene for common and individual good
  - The market economy must be governed by justice and oriented to the common good
- Common good is attained through cooperation and mutual assistance
- Rich nations are called to sacrifice income and power for common good
  - Live simply so that others may simply live
- Development must respect nature and the common good: human dominion over the Earth is not absolute
- Everyone has a right to good water and food, the fruits of God’s creation
  - Riches and freedom create a special obligation
- Aid less-developed countries without thought of domination
- All nations have equal dignity and right to self-development
  - Every human person and nation is interdependent
- All individuals and nations should share in development
  - Development is a means to peace
  - Right to work and the dignity of work
- Right of workers to assemble, to unionize, and to a just wage
- Workers are part owners of the enterprise in which they invest labour
- Resources are not for arms but for the alleviation of human misery
  - Disarm, simplify lifestyles, and eliminate waste in rich nations
- Christian duty calls for participation in public life
  - Infuse one’s culture with a Christian spirit
- Accept responsibility for one’s share in injustice and for conversion
  - Sinful structures exist and must be overcome
  - Social justice is integral to our faith commitment
- Challenging injustice is an essential part of evangelization

To reference complete texts: [www.scarboromissions.ca](http://www.scarboromissions.ca)

**SCARBORO**  
**MISSIONS**

SERVING IN FAITH  
GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT  
90 Years: 1918-2008

To order poster, contact Scarboro Missions, 2685 Kingston Road, Toronto, ON, Canada, M4M 1M4. 1-800-260-4815. [www.scarboromissions.ca](http://www.scarboromissions.ca)