

Reflection Monday 1st Week Lent 2023

During the last two decades we have become more and more aware of the Social Teachings of the Church which provides a compelling challenge for living responsibly and building a just society. It is rooted in Scripture and articulated through written documents

Its key themes are:

Human life is sacred and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Every person is precious, people are more important than things, and the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the **life and dignity of the human person**.

The **person is both sacred and social**. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. People have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

A healthy community can be achieved only if **human rights** are protected and responsibilities met. Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, our families, and the larger society.

In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition instructs us to **put the needs of poor and vulnerable first**.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. The **dignity of work** must be protected and the basic rights of workers respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

We are one human family. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. Loving our neighbour has global dimensions. The core of solidarity is the **pursuit of justice and peace**. The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

We show our respect for the Creator by our **stewardship of creation**. Care for the earth is a requirement of the Catholic faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.