



# OUR SOCIAL MISSION

BY CARITAS SINGAPORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Do you know the Social Teachings? Try this quiz

If you have been following the articles on Catholic Social Teaching, this is a good time to test how well you fare in the following quiz:

### 1. Where are the roots of Catholic Social Teachings found?

- (a) Scriptures
- (b) Papal encyclicals
- (c) Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church
- (d) All of the above
- (e) None of the above

### 2. What is the "original social sin" that led to Catholic Social Teachings?

- (a) Adam & Eve
- (b) Disobedience
- (c) The industrial revolution
- (d) The holocaust
- (e) The atomic bomb

### 3. The Principle of the Dignity of the Human Person states that every human person is of infinite dignity. Does this mean that we may never deprive a person of their rights regardless, including a person who has committed a grave act against our dignity such as adultery with or murder of our loved ones?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) It depends

### 4. What is meant by "option for the poor"?

- (a) The poor have options to stay where they are or not
- (b) A discounted stock option
- (c) Reduced medical charges for those who meet the means test
- (d) Preferential treatment of the poor

### 5. Your neighbours are arguing with each other and you can see there has been some unreasonable behaviour and some misunderstanding. Applying the Principle of the Promotion of Peace, what is the appropriate action for you to take?

- (a) Keep quiet to maintain peace for yourself
- (b) Seek to mediate in the conflict
- (c) Identify the unreasonable persons and seek to isolate them from the neighbourhood group
- (d) Call the police

### 6. According to the Principle of the Dignity of Work, which of the following statements are true?

- (a) Work is for man and not man for work
- (b) Work can make us holy
- (c) All workers should be compensated such that they can provide for themselves and their family
- (d) All of the above
- (e) None of the above

### 7. Which principle does the following statement apply to: "A charitable group should not adopt a 'we know best' attitude towards the people they serve and take over from them what they can do for themselves"?

- (a) Principle of Participation
- (b) Principle of Association
- (c) Principle of Subsidiarity
- (d) Principle of Common Good
- (e) Principle of Solidarity

### 8. The Principle of the Universal Destination of Goods states that God intended for all the world's resources to be enjoyed by everyone and not just a few people. Does this mean that private property is frowned upon by the Church and all resources should, as far as possible, be in the public domain?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) It depends

### 9. In an en-bloc sale, 90% voted to proceed. Which of the following situations best describes the application of the Principle of The Common Good?

- (a) The Common Good has already been achieved because the majority has voted and agreed.
- (b) The Common Good is achieved if the 10% who voted against are offered a higher compensation to make up for their greater loss.
- (c) The Common Good is achieved if the reasons of the 10% who voted against are looked into and actions taken to appease each of them.
- (d) The Common Good is achieved when a solution is found in which all the members can agree unanimously to it.

### 10. From which papal document is this statement taken: "Instead of carrying out his role as a co-operator with God in the work of creation, man sets himself up in

### place of God and thus ends up provoking a rebellion on the part of nature, which is more tyrannised than governed by him".

- (a) Rerum Novarum (On Condition of Labour)
- (b) Pacem In Terris (Peace on Earth)
- (c) Gaudium et Spes (The Church in the Modern World)
- (d) Octogesima Adveniens (A Call to Action)
- (e) Centesimus Annus (One Hundred Years)

### Answers:

1. (a) Scriptures. All other Church documents expound upon and interpret scriptural teachings in the light of modern times.

2. (c) The industrial revolution. It was the excesses of the industrial revolution and liberal capitalism that led to the Communist Manifesto. In response Pope Leo XIII issued Rerum Novarum (On the Condition of Labour) in 1891. This was the forerunner of many papal encyclicals that became the Catholic Social Teachings as we understand it today. (see article in last issue)

3. (a) Yes. The Principle of the Dignity of the Human Person teaches that we must respond with love to our neighbour whether he or she is the loftiest saint or the greatest sinner. The reason is that God affirms the dignity of the human person because we are all created in the image of God and therefore God is united with every person. Christ also died and rose for everyone, so this tells us how important each person is to God.

4. (d) Preferential treatment of the poor – in terms of resources, protection and assistance. Jesus and the Church have always had a special concern and preference for the poor who are often disadvantaged and exploited and in need of fair treatment.

5. (b) Seek to mediate. Promotion of peace does not mean just the absence of violence or noise. It is not necessarily inaction but often means proactive action to maintain the right relationship with each other, with God and with creation.

6. (d) All the statements are true. The concern for the worker must come first before the

work. The work is dignified because it is a human being that is doing the work, regardless of the type of work. Worker compensation should be just.

7. (c) The Principle of Subsidiarity. According to this principle, no higher-level body should take over what a lower-level body can do for itself, so that people can develop and flourish.

8. (b) No. The Principle of the Universal Destination of Goods is about the fair sharing of the fruits of God's creations. The Church upholds the importance of private property. This right allows for the individual or family to have what is needed – such as food, shelter and clothing – so as to live in dignity. But what we have is a gift from God in the first place and subject to the common good; each of us has a duty to do what is needed to ensure that it can be used for the common good.

9. (d) The Common Good is achieved when a solution is found in which all the members agree unanimously to it. The Principle of the Common Good is not about addressing the concerns of the majority but about every individual.

10. (e) Centesimus Annus 37. This document was written by Pope John Paul II in 1991, at the 100th year anniversary of the landmark encyclical Rerum Novarum. This statement supports the Principle of the Dignity of Creation.

### How well did you score?

Score one point for every correct answer.

0-5 Do not lose heart. Most Catholics are probably here. We suggest you sign up for the "Salt of the Earth" programme on the social teachings of the Church and continue to read the articles in Catholic News.

6-8 You are above average in your knowledge of Catholic Social Teachings. Do not stop learning though. There are other advanced materials available to deepen your knowledge. And do share and spread these social teachings with your neighbours, as well as live them.

9-10 Congratulations! Would you like to join the Caritas Singapore Formation Committee?

## Principles of Catholic Social Teachings

The social teachings of the Church call each of us to reach out to our brothers and sisters and heed God's call to "Love one another as I have loved you." Caritas Singapore, together with the Singapore Pastoral Institute, has summarised the Catholic social teachings into these ten principles.

### 1 Principle of the Dignity of the Human Person

Every human person is of infinite dignity. All of society must be directed towards the well-being of the human person.

### 2 Principle of Association

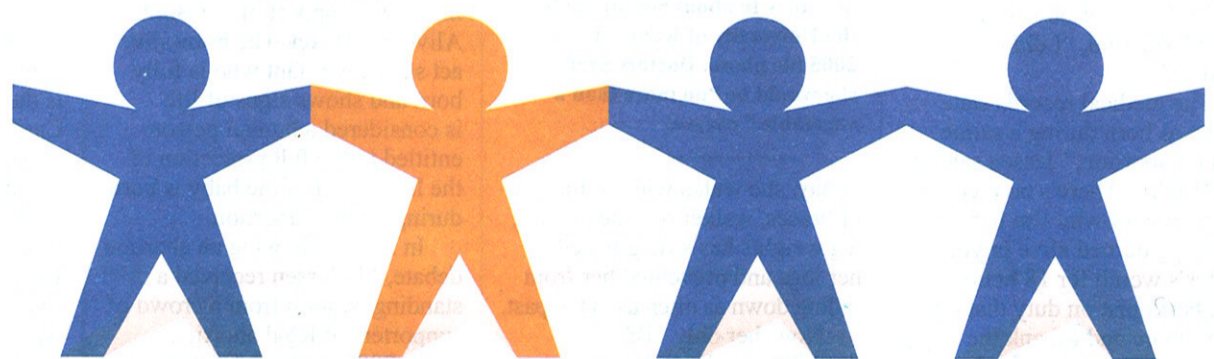
Human persons are meant to be in community and have a right to freely associate with one another to achieve the common good.

### 3 Principle of Subsidiarity

No higher-level body should take over what a lower-level body can do for itself, so that people can develop and flourish.

### 4 Principle of Participation

All human persons have a right and duty to take action in what determines their well-being and future.



### 5 Principle of the Common Good

We must seek the good of the broader community, that is, each person, every person and the whole person – and not just our own interests.

### 6 Principle of the Universal Destination of Goods

God intended for all the world's resources to be enjoyed by everyone, and not just a few. We should have a preferential option for the poor and see to it that the most vulnerable also have what they need.

### 7 Principle of Solidarity

Every human person is connected to every other person. We are called to stand together as one human family.

### 8 Principle of the Dignity of Human Work

The human person's intrinsic dignity means that human work is holy as well. Moreover, everyone should have working conditions worthy of the children of God.

### 9 Principle of the Dignity of Creation

Creation is holy because this is the place where we relate to God. We are the earth's stewards, helping to bring the world towards salvation.

### 10 Principle of the Promotion of Peace

We have a duty to seek true and lasting peace, which implies right relationships all round – with God, self, others and all creation.