



Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice

**Evangelizing the World with  
Catholic Social Teaching:**

**A Lay Imperative**

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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## Saint John Paul II

“a singular response to the invitation I offered in the Encyclical which inspired this group, to promote and defend the knowledge and practice of the Church’s social doctrine.”

Message to the Members of the “Centessimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation”, 5 July 2003

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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## Saint John Paul II

“to spread her social doctrine pertains to the Church’s evangelization mission and is an essential part of the Christian message”

*Centesimus Annus, 5*

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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## Saint John Paul II

“the Church’s social teaching is itself a valid instrument of evangelization.”

*Centesimus Annus*, 54

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# Evangelizing the World with Catholic Social Teaching:

## A Lay Imperative

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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Catholic Social Teaching =  
Christian Teaching

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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## Saint John Paul II

“it proclaims God and his mystery of salvation in Christ to every human being, and for that very reason reveals man to himself...in this light, and only in this light, does it concern itself with everything else.”

Evangelizing the World with CST

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Catholic Social Teaching

Social Contract Theory

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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Catholic Social Teaching =  
Christian Teaching

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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Social Contract Theory =

Autonomous

# CST KEY PRINCIPLES

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- Human Dignity
- Solidarity
- Subsidiarity

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# Catholic Social Teaching

# CHALLENGE

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1.3 Billion Roman Catholics

# CHALLENGE

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1.3 billion Million Roman Catholics

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**TO WHAT EFFECT?**

# Challenge

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## The Paradox

Catholic  
Social  
Prominence



Catholic  
Impact  
On Society



# CHALLENGE

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- PARADOX

# Challenge

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## The Paradox

Catholic  
Social  
Prominence



Catholic  
Impact  
On Society



# Challenge

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— CULTURE

— CHURCH

# Challenge

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- Faith
- Hope
- Ingenuity

# CHALLENGE

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The issue involves ethical and  
cultural systems –  
Not economic

# CHALLENGE

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Renovate and Reclaim our  
Catholic Traditions and  
Teachings and Put Them in  
Service to Our Fellow Man

# CHALLENGE

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“Freedom...demands the courage to engage in civic life and to bring one’s deepest beliefs and values to reasoned public debate”

Benedict XVI, White House Welcoming Ceremony, 16 April 2008, Washington, DC

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# Evangelizing the World with Catholic Social Teaching:

## A Lay Imperative

# **HUMAN DIGNITY**

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**Correct Understanding of The  
Human Person**

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# **Correct Understanding of The Human Person**

## **The Core Principle**

# Correct Understanding of The Human Person

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“Fundamental rights are neither created by the lawmaker nor granted to the citizen. The value of human dignity...takes precedence over all political decision making.”

Pope Benedict XVI, “Europe and its Discontents”, First Things, January 2006

# Correct Understanding of The Human Person

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“the State is bound to protect natural rights, not destroy them.”

Pope Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum*, 135

# Principle of CST

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**SOLIDARITY**

# SOLIDARITY

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“All men and women are called to live as one, each taking care of the other”

Pope Francis, *World Day of Peace Message*, 1 January 2014, 2

# SOLIDARITY

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**For our own good**

And a

**Necessary Component of Faith**

# SOLIDARITY

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**Love of God & Love of Neighbor**

**=**

**One Commandment**

# SOLIDARITY

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“We cannot believe in God the Father without seeing a brother or sister in every person, and we cannot follow Jesus without giving our lives for those for whom he died on the cross.”

Pope Francis, *Welcome Ceremony*, La Paz (Bolivia), 8 July 2015

# Principle of CST

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**SUBSIDIARITY**

# SUBSIDIARITY

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Problems best solved at level they  
arise

Lowest competent level

# SUBSIDIARITY

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“No actual or established power has the right to deprive peoples of the full exercise of their sovereignty.”

Pope Francis, *Address to the Second World Meeting of Popular Movements*, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 9 July 2015

# SUBSIDIARITY

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“Individuals and groups have the right to go their own way, even though they may sometimes make mistakes. In full respect for that freedom, civil society is called to help each person and social organization to take up its specific role and thus contribute to the common good.”

Pope Francis, *Address to a Meeting With Political, Economic and Civic Leaders*, Quito, Ecuador, 7 July 2015

# Principle of CST

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**SUBSIDIARITY**

# The 3 Key Principles of CST

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**HUMAN DIGNITY**

**SOLIDARITY**

**SUBSIDIARITY**

# Catholic Social Teaching

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**Whose Job Is It?**

# Catholic Social Teaching

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*“The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible”*

*Deus Caritas Est, 28*

# Catholic Social Teaching

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**“to cooperate in the pursuit of the common good, through her social and educational works, promoting ethical and spiritual values, and serving as a prophetic sign which brings a ray of light and hope to all”**

Pope Francis, *Address to a Meeting With Political, Economic and Civic Leaders*, Quito, Ecuador,

7 July 2015

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# Catholic Social Teaching

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# What Must I Do?

Evangelizing the World with  
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## What Must I Do?

“the direct duty to work for a just ordering of society...is proper to the lay faithful”

*Deus Caritas Est, 29*

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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## What Must I Do?

“the laity have the principal role in the overall fulfillment of this duty”

*LUMEN GENTIUM*, 21 NOVEMBER 1964, Chapter IV

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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## What Must I Do?

“A new state of affairs today both in the Church and in social, economic, political and cultural life, calls with a particular urgency for the action of the lay faithful. If lack of commitment is always unacceptable, the present time renders it even more so. It is not permissible for anyone to remain idle.” ”

*Christifideles Laici*, 30 December 1988, 3

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## What Must I Do?

“an exacting and indispensable form of  
charity”

*Caritas In Veritate*, 1

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- “insisting especially on the formation of consciences on the basis of the Church's social doctrine.”
- “best antidote”
- “evangelization of the leadership sector”

## Evangelizing the World with CST

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“it should not come as a surprise that many who are a part of it will be guided by criteria alien to the Gospel and at times openly contrary to it.”

*Ecclesia in America, 1999*

# Catholic Social Teaching

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Pope John Paul II

“The decisions which create a human environment can give rise to specific structures of sin...”

*Centesimus Annus*, 38)

# Catholic Social Teaching

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## PURPOSE

Change:

Our life styles

Our models of production and  
consumption

The established structures of  
power which today govern societies

*Centesimus Annus, 58*

# Catholic Social Teaching

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“To destroy structures and replace them with more authentic forms of living in community is a task which demands courage and patience.”

*Centesimus Annus, 38*

# Catholic Social Teaching

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It is a moral obligation.

For Christians, the responsibility is  
even greater;  
it is a commandment”

Francis, *Address to the Second World Meeting of Popular Movements*, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 9 July  
2015, 3.1

# Catholic Social Teaching

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## PURPOSE

For lay Catholic leaders form their consciences on the principles of CST so that they may change their own lives, first, and then, change the world.

# Catholic Social Teaching

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## PURPOSE

CST is not a theory  
it is

**“above all else a basis and a  
motivation for action.”**

*Centesimus Annus, 57*

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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## “Doing” Catholic Social Teaching Takes Courage

“the approval of the prevailing wisdom...is  
not the criterion to which we submit.”

Benedict XVI, *Homily*, 6 January 2013

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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“Doing” Catholic Social Teaching Takes Courage

“and thus fall into moral subjectivism and certain objectionable ways of acting.”

*Evangelium Vitae*, 95

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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“Doing” Catholic Social Teaching Takes Courage

“inevitably, we will also be beaten by those who live lives opposed to the Gospel”

Benedict XVI, Homily, 6 January 2013

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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“profess our beliefs...on Sunday...then:

- promote contrary business practices
- promote contrary medical practices
- exploit or ignore the poor
- promote sexual behavior contrary to moral teaching
- adopt positions that contradict the right to life”

Benedict XVI, *Address to US Bishops*, 16 April 08

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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## “Doing” Catholic Social Teaching Takes Courage

“Any tendency to treat religion as a private matter must be resisted. Only when faith permeates every aspect of their lives do Christians become truly open to the transforming power of the Gospel”

Benedict XVI, *Address to US Bishops*, 16 April 08

# Evangelizing the World with CST

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“Doing” Catholic Social Teaching Takes Courage

“Christian consistency”

“to think like a Christian; to feel like a Christian and to act like a Christian”

Pope Francis, *Homily*, 27 February 2014 (as reported in *L'Osservatore Romano*, 7 March 2014, #10, pg. 14)

# Centesimus Annus – Pro Pontifice

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## *Challenge*

To develop a strong, committed group of lay men and women, rich in faith and theologically prepared to be present in public life to explain, develop and implement Catholic Social Teaching

How do I do this?

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However

Faith First

## How do I do this?

### Faith First

“Adhering to the values of Christianity is not merely useful but essential for building a good society and for true integral human development.”.

*Caritas in Veritate*, 4

“To respond to their vocation, the lay faithful must see their daily activities as an occasion to join themselves to God, fulfill his will, serve other people and lead them to communion with God in Christ”.

Saint John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, 30 December 1988, 17

How do I do this?

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Faith First

“Christians must always have this attitude of meekness, humility...trusting in Jesus and entrusting themselves to Jesus”

Pope Francis, *Address in Saint Peter's Square*, 18 May 2013

## How do I do this?

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“we are not provocative; on the contrary we invite all to enter into the joy of that truth which shows us the way...Our criterion is the Lord himself. If we defend his cause, we will constantly gain others to the way of the Gospel”

Benedict XVI, *Homily*, 6 January 2013

Pope Saint John Paul II

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Founded

Fondazione Centesimus Annus Pro  
Pontifice

June 5, 1993

# Pope Saint John Paul II

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## *Message to CAPP*

“I therefore urge the Members to spare no effort to ensure that the Foundation seeks to pursue these goals”

Saint John Paul II, *Address to CAPP*, 4 Dec 04

# Pope Saint John Paul II

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Founded

Fondazione Centesimus Annus Pro  
Pontifice

June 5, 1993

# CAPP Prayer

Loving Father, you gather us together in this time and place. Send your Spirit to be with us and open our hearts to do your will as we make this journey, dedicated to evangelizing your Word through Catholic social teaching. Help us with your grace to embrace this new evangelization with faith and love. May it empower us to recognize you and to bear witness to your presence in the world. We ask this through the intercession of our founder, Saint John Paul the Great and Our Lady of Fatima, with her son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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