

Catholic Social Teaching, Politics, and the Fullness of Faith

September 10th, 2020

CatholicClimateCovenant.org



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Catholic Social Teaching, Politics, and the Fullness of Faith

The Breath of the Almighty, by Linda Jones/CAFOD (Opening prayer of [2020 Feast of St. Francis program](#))

Lord God, loving Creator,
You fashioned us from clay,
And breathed life into us.
We are made and loved by you.

The Spirit of God has made me,
And the breath of the Almighty has given
me life.

Heavenly God,
Your Spirit fills us with hope
And lights the path to fullness of life.
Hear us!
As we cry out to you, uncertain and afraid.

The Spirit of God has made me,
And the breath of the Almighty has given
me life.

In your mercy, Lord,
Grant us the strength to rebuild
When all seems lost.
And the courage to reach out
To those in pain.

The Spirit of God has made me,
And the breath of the Almighty has given
me life.



Control Panel >>>>

Your Participation

Open and close your control panel

Submit questions and comments via the Questions panel.

Audio is available only through your computer (no phone audio for attendees with this webcast).

Note: Today's presentation is being recorded and will be provided within 48 hours.



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Catholic Social Teaching, Politics, and the Fullness of Faith



Most Rev. John Stowe, OFM Conv.
Bishop of Lexington



Dan DiLeo, Ph.D.
Director, Program of Justice
Studies and Peace , Creighton
University

Moderator: Daniel Misleh
Founding Executive Director
Catholic Climate Covenant



Catholic Social Teaching, Politics, and the Fullness of Faith



Most Rev. John Stowe, OFM Conv.
Bishop of Lexington



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.



A Season of Creation Webinar Series

ON THE COMMON GOOD & OUR COMMON HOME

WEBINAR 1: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING, POLITICS, AND THE *FULLNESS OF FAITH*

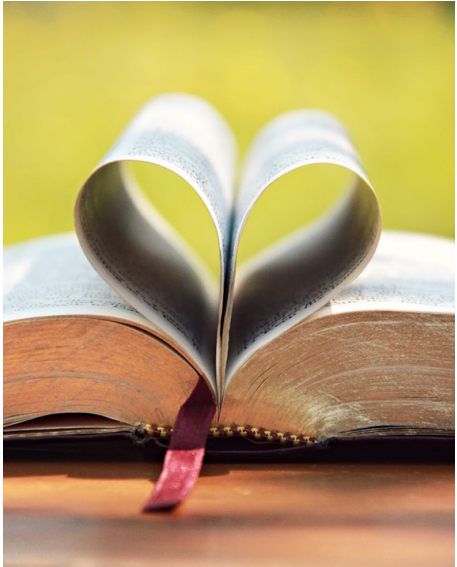
Daniel R. DiLeo, PhD

Assistant Professor and Director, Justice and Peace Studies Program, Creighton University

Consultant, Catholic Climate Covenant

"Schema" of Christian Life

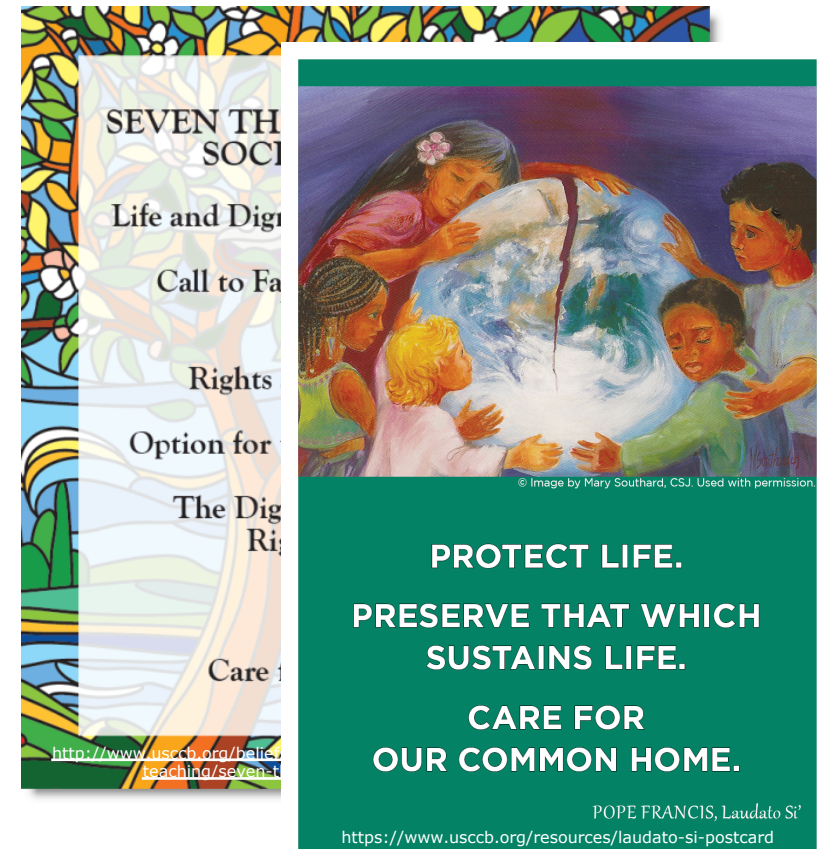
Vacek, *Love, Human and Divine*; Keenan, *Moral Wisdom*



1. God is love (1 John 4:8, 16)
2. God loves us (1 John 4:16)
 - "Willing the good of the other ... and acting to make that good real" (M. Himes, *Doing the Truth in Love*, p. 110).
3. We love God (or not)
 - **Faith** as "adequate response to this invitation" (*Catechism* n. 142).
4. We are transformed - **Conversion**
 - "Union with God leads to union with God's loves, and so we will be inclined to love the neighbor whom God loves" (Vacek, p. 143).
5. We respond in/through/with love - **Morality**
 - Self, Neighbor, and Creation
 - "An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world" (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 183).

Catholic Social Teaching

- Magisterial teachings for conscientious moral discernment
- “The principles for reflection, the criteria for judgment and the directives for action” (*Compendium*, n. 7).
- “It cannot be emphasized enough how everything is interconnected” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, n. 138).
 - “[H]ow can we separate, or even set at odds, the protection of the environment and the protection of human life, including the life of the unborn?” (Pope Benedict XVI, 2010 Message to the Diplomatic Corps)
 - “Christians, in particular, realize that their responsibility within creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an **essential part of their faith**” (Pope John Paul II, 1990 World Day of Peace Message, n. 15, emphasis added).
 - “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is **essential** to a life of virtue; it is **not an optional or a secondary aspect** of our Christian experience” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, n. 217, emphases added).



Love in Action



"The conscience is called by this social teaching to recognize and fulfill the obligations of **justice** and **charity** in society."

—Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, no. 83

<http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/upload/Two-Feet-handout-color.pdf>

Love in Action



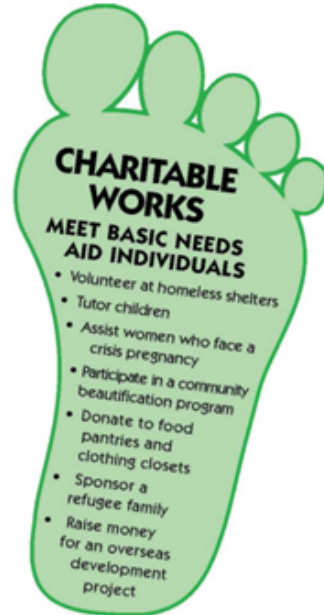
The Two Feet of Love *in Action*

"The conscience is called by this social teaching to recognize and fulfill the obligations of **justice** and **charity** in society."

—Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, no. 83

"To [those who lack what they need to live a dignified life] are proclaimed glad tidings that God loves them...and comes to visit them through the **charitable works** that the disciples of Christ do in his name... As we can read in Matthew 25, we shall all be judged on this."

—Pope Francis, Address to Pastoral Convention, 6/17/13



<http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/upload/Two-Feet-handout-color.pdf>

Love in Action

The Two Feet of Love in Action

"The conscience is called by this social teaching to recognize and fulfill the obligations of **justice** and **charity** in society."
—*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, no. 83*

"**Social justice**. . . concerns the social, political, and economic aspects and, above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions."
—*Compendium, no. 201*

"To [those who lack what they need to live a dignified life] are proclaimed glad tidings that God loves them...and comes to visit them through the **charitable works** that the disciples of Christ do in his name... As we can read in Matthew 25, we shall all be judged on this."
—*Pope Francis, Address to Pastoral Convention, 6/17/13*

SOCIAL JUSTICE

**REMOVE ROOT CAUSES
IMPROVE STRUCTURES**

- Expand access to affordable housing
- Work to improve the education system
- Extend legal protection to unborn children
- Support environmental protection laws
- Participate in a living wage campaign
- Promote peace
- Advocate for international assistance

CHARITABLE WORKS

**MEET BASIC NEEDS
AID INDIVIDUALS**

- Volunteer at homeless shelters
- Tutor children
- Assist women who face a crisis pregnancy
- Participate in a community beautification program
- Donate to food pantries and clothing closets
- Sponsor a refugee family
- Raise money for an overseas development project

<http://www.usccb.org/about/justice-peace-and-human-development/upload/Two-Feet-handout-color.pdf>

- "As Benedict XVI stresses in his social encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, when love follows what he calls the 'institutional path' or the 'political path' it is 'no less excellent and effective than the kind of charity which encounters the neighbor directly' (n. 7). Social justice is to be understood as the political and systemic expression of love or the translation of neighbor-love into institutional or structural vehicles" (K. Himes & DiLeo, "*Laudato Si'* in the United States: Reflections on Love, Charitable Works, and Social Justice," *Journal of Moral Theology*, Volume 9, Special Issue 1 (2020): 96).

Faith, Love, and Politics

“Schema of Christian Life”

1. God is love (1 John 4:8, 16)
2. God loves us (1 John 4:16)
3. We love God (or not) – **Faith**
4. We are transformed – **Conversion**
5. We respond via love – **Morality**
 - Charitable Works & Social Justice
 - Politics

- “Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political” (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, n. 231 quoting Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, n. 2).
- Politics: Activities that foster cooperation and promote the common good (Cf. K. Himes, *Christianity and the Political Order*, p. 2; *Compendium*, n. 168-170).
 - Love wills and acts for the good of others (M. Himes, *Doing the Truth in Love*, p. 110).
 - “Politics matters to Christians, therefore, because it concerns the temporal well-being [good] of God’s children” whom we are called to love (K. Himes, *Christianity . . .* p. 4).
- “As Catholics, we bring the richness of our faith to the public square . . . In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation” (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, n. 1, 13).
- “A good Catholic meddles in politics” (Pope Francis, homily, Sept. 16, 2013).

Catholic Social Teaching, Politics, and the Fullness of Faith



Credit: Mary-Paula Cancienne, RSM

I Pledge to Vote to Protect Life and Promote the Common Good

During these challenging times, we are called to "bring our faith and our consistent moral framework to important work in our communities, nation, and world". Just as St. Francis of Assisi demonstrated throughout his life, we too must put our love into action.

Take the 2020 Feast of St. Francis Pledge here:
<https://catholicclimatecovenant.salsalabs.org/FOSFPledge2020>

"I pledge to vote with love in action in mind so as to protect life, respect human dignity, and promote the common good, including God's gift of creation."



Catholic Social Teaching, Politics, and the Fullness of Faith

Questions ?



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Catholic Social Teaching, Politics, and the Fullness of Faith

For more information: www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org

Send questions to: info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

