



“All serious and upright human conduct is hope in action.”

—*Spe Salvi*, 35

Faith is hope.

“‘Hope,’ in fact, is a key word in Biblical faith—so much so that in several passages the words ‘faith’ and ‘hope’ seem interchangeable...The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life.”—*Spe Salvi*, 2

TAKE ACTION

Live differently. Recycle. Conserve energy. Buy sweatshop free and fair-trade products.

Hope is practiced by working for justice.

“Love of God leads to participation in the justice and generosity of God toward others...The love of God is revealed in responsibility for others.”—*Spe Salvi*, 28

TAKE ACTION

Participate in God's justice by speaking out on behalf of those who have no voice. Consider joining a service and social action group on campus.

Compassion and hope transform suffering.

“To suffer with the other and for others; to suffer for the sake of truth and justice; to suffer out of love and in order to become a person who truly loves—these are fundamental elements of humanity.”—*Spe Salvi*, 39

TAKE ACTION

Volunteer locally. Participate in a Social Concerns Seminar over fall, winter, or spring break to learn, serve, and live compassionately beyond the classroom.

Prayer is a school for practicing hope.

Through prayer and contemplation, “we become capable of the great hope and thus we become ministers of hope for others.”—*Spe Salvi*, 34

TAKE ACTION

*Read and reflect on *Spe Salvi*. Start a journal or set aside time every day for quiet prayer and contemplation.*

BACKGROUND AND RESOURCES

Throughout the 2009-10 academic year, the Center for Social Concerns' courses, events, and other efforts will emphasize the importance and transformative power of hope in action.

Pope Benedict XVI's Encyclical Letter, *Spe Salvi*, *Saved in Hope*, calls all Christians to live lives of action inspired by hope and faith in God. We are encouraged to hope for a better future and work actively to-

wards its fruition. We are likewise called to live “outwardly,” to work for social justice, and to stand in solidarity with all those who suffer.

For more resources, readings, and a schedule of related events during the 2009-10 academic year visit socialconcerns.nd.edu



ABOUT CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT

Catholic social thought encompasses aspects of Catholic doctrine relating to matters dealing with the collective welfare of humanity. A distinctive feature of Catholic social thought is its concern for the poorest members of society. This concern echoes elements of Jewish law and the prophetic books of the Old Testament, and recalls the teachings of Jesus Christ recorded in the New Testament.

The foundations of modern Catholic social thought are widely considered to have been laid by Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical letter *Rerum Novarum*. From this founding document, subsequent papal documents, conciliar documents, and statements from Bishops' conferences in the past 100+ years, several principles can be drawn.

For more readings and resources on Catholic Social thought visit socialconcerns.nd.edu

PRINCIPLES OF

CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT

① **The Common Good**

We are called to be ministers of hope for others to serve the greater good. In community we realize the fulfillment of our dignity and rights in relationship with others.

② **The Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

All people are a reflection of the image of God and thus all human life is sacred. We are all called to pursue peace and help overcome poverty, racism, and other conditions that demean human life.

③ **Rights and Responsibilities**

People have basic rights and responsibilities that derive from their dignity as creatures made in God's image. Catholic teaching emphasizes that people have a right to life and to the basic necessities that provide quality to life: food, shelter, health care, education, and employment. We are called to respect the rights of others and to seek the common good.

④ **Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers**

Work is an expression of our dignity and an expression of our involvement in God's creation. Our work should empower us to create a better future; it should never demean or detract from our inherent human dignity.

⑤ **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

While the common good embraces all, those who are in greatest need deserve preferential concern. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us.

⑥ **Caring for God's Creation**

Care for the earth is a duty of our Catholic faith. We are all called to be careful stewards of God's creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future.

⑦ **Living Solidarity**

We are all responsible for all. As members of the common human family, we should strive to foster community and to live in solidarity with all our neighbors.