Catholic Social Teaching Bibliography – recommended further reading

**Preferential Option for the Poor**


**Dignity of the Human Person**


**Stewardship of the Environment**

- US Bishops (2001), *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good*
- CBCEW (2002), *The Call of Creation*

**Subsidiarity and Participation**


**Common Good**

- US Bishops (2001), *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good*
- CBCEW (1996), *The Common Good*
Solidarity


Catholic Social Teaching – general


Key Scriptures

- Genesis 9, 12-17
- Micah 6:8
- Matthew 7:12
- Matthew 20
- Matthew 25
- Mark 9:23
- Luke 12
- Luke 16, 19-31
- Acts 2: 42-46
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21
- James 1:22

Key Church Documents

With the exception of a Council Pastoral Constitution and a Synod statement, the following are all papal texts, but there are also documents from regional conferences of bishops, like those of CELAM (Latin America) or FABC(Asia) – particularly that of Medellin (1968) and Puebla (1979) – which applied CST to their own context and reflected on such ideas as conscientisation, basic communities and option for the poor. Many of these themes have been picked up by the wider Church. There have also been contributions from the Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace: – on Debt (1986), Homelessness (1987), Racism (1988), Refugees (1992) and Land Reform (1997).


The Condition of Labour examines working conditions in industrialised countries and insists on workers’ rights. The Church, employers & workers should work together to build a just society.
1931 Quadragesimo Anno – “On the Fortieth Year” – Pius X

The Reconstruction of the Social Order at the time of major economic depression, QA criticises abuses of capitalism & communism. Unity between capital & labour. Ownership brings social responsibilities. Subsidiarity.

1961 Mater et Magistra - “Mother & Teacher” – John XXIII

Christianity & Social Progress Updates earlier teaching and applies to agriculture and aid to developing countries, thus ‘internationalising’ CST. Role of laity in applying social teaching as an integral part of Christian life.

1963 Pacem in Terris - “Peace on Earth” – John XXIII

Peace on Earth With the imminent threat of nuclear war, this is a plea for peace based on the social order from a framework of rights and duties applying to individuals, public authorities and the world community.

1965 Gaudium et Spes - “The Joys and Hopes” Vatican II

The Church in the Modern World Church’s duty is discernment of the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel. Principles of cultural development and justice, enhancing human dignity and the common good. Work for peace.

1967 Populorum Progressio – “The Development of Peoples” Paul VI

The Development of Peoples Charter for development – ‘the new name for peace’. Deals with structural poverty, aid and trade. Limits put on profit motive and the right to private property. Christians to strive for international justice.

1971 Octogesima Adveniens – “On the Eightieth Year” – Paul VI

A Call to Action Rome doesn’t necessarily have the answer: need for local church to respond to specific situations. Urbanisation has brought new injustices. We are called to political action.

1971 Justicia in Mundo - “Justice in the World” – Synod

‘Justice is a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel...’ The Church must examine its conscience about its lifestyle and so witness to the Gospel. Importance of Education for Justice.

1975 Evangelii Nuntiandi - “Evangelisation in the Modern World”- Paul VI
Profound links between evangelisation and development and liberation. Only the kingdom is absolute; everything else is relative. All levels of society are to be transformed by the power of the good news.


On Human Work For JPII work is the central social issue. Work increases human dignity. Priority of labour over capital. Rights of workers (especially women) and unions. Critique of capitalism as well as Marxism.

1987 Sollicitudo Rei Socialis - “The Social Concern of the Church” – John Paul II

Social Concern Updates Populorum Progressio with analysis of global development: North/South divide blamed on confrontation between capitalism and Marxism. Conversion from ‘Structures of sin’ towards solidarity and option for the poor.

1991 Centesimus Annus – “The One Hundredth Year” – John Paul II

One Hundred Years Review of CST and major events of the last century, constantly affirming human dignity and human rights, justice and peace. The fall of Marxism does not signify a victory for capitalism.

2009 Caritas in Veritate - “Charity in Truth” – Benedict XVI

Charity in Truth Updates Populorum Progressio with a comprehensive review of development and some reflection on the economic crisis and business ethics. Provides a theological framework for CST.

Some other documents of John Paul II contain important sections for CST:
Dives in Misericordia (1980): growing disparity in wealth; justice is shaped by the power of love.
Redemptor Missio(1990): pro inculturation & economic liberation; but true liberation is in Christ.
Novo Millennio Ineunte(2000): challenges of ecology, peace and human rights; all to work for J&P.

Credit: LiveSimply.org.uk (CAFOD, Caritas Australia’s sister agency for England and Wales, partner website)