

Catholics for Peace and Justice

is an organization based on Catholic social principles. We support the Church's "consistent ethic of life," which begins with an understanding of God as our creator and human life as God's sacred gift. The dignity of all life must be respected from conception to natural death.

We are concerned about the state of our nation and World. We see a world threatened by war, terrorism, growing economic inequality, environmental catastrophe, and divisions between religions, nations, races, genders, and ethnic groups. We call on Catholics, and all people of faith, to consider whether their political and economic beliefs and actions are reflective of their faith.

This program is offered at no cost.

Donations are welcomed!



For More Information

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ENGAGE!

Putting your **FAITH** into **ACTION**

Engage! is a 1-3 hour educational program which presents the themes of Catholic Social Teaching and helps establish strategies for bringing these teachings to life in a community setting.

Ideal for

Parish Councils, Human Concerns,
Christian Formation, Staff or Teacher

In-services

Engage!

Is designed to help parishioners better understand Catholic Social Teaching and the implications they have for living out our Catholic faith. The program is presented by trained members from Catholics for Peace and Justice and is flexible enough to meet the needs of your particular group in your particular parish.

Using background material from “Communities of Salt and Light”, the program emphasizes that parishes are the heart of sharing and acting on the social teaching of the church, that our social mission belongs to the whole parish not just a committee or a few leaders, and calls us all to integrate social justice into every aspect of parish and community life. The program will introduce seven themes of Catholic Teaching and help your group strategize the best ways to further implement these teachings into your parish life. Engage! uses the “Observe, Judge, Act” method for reflecting on social issues of our time and will assist your parish or group assess the best “next steps” for your particular situation.

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Faith In Action!

The themes of Catholic Teaching are often thought of as Catholicism's “best kept secret” **BUT THEY SHOULDN'T BE!**

Seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching have been developed from the key ideas of Papal and Episcopal documents which reflect theologically on the important social issues of their times.



Beginning with Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical on the condition of labor and continuing through the USCCB letter concerning our entry into the current war in Iraq, church leaders have called upon faithful Catholics to be thoughtfully engaged in the important social issues of our time.

Catholic Social Teachings serve as guidelines for faithful Catholics as we live and engage in modern life in a global society. They help us to make conscientious decisions on a gamut of issues that impact our lives, from where we might invest our money, purchase our clothing or elect our representatives in a manner that is consistent to the values of the gospel.

Engage!

Program Model

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Prayer
- III. Justice and Charity
 - Sharing current involvement
 - Clarifying the difference
- IV. “Communities of Salt and Light”
 - Video and discussion
- V. Themes of Catholic Social Teaching
 - Implementation at parish
 - Service, Advocacy, Education
- VI. The “Observe-Judge-Act” Model
 - Practical applications
- VII. Organizing Around an Issue
 - Chooses and work on an issue in your parish
- VIII. Closing Prayer

