



## Education/ Social Action Commissions

## The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

### Focus Topic: Dignity of Work

Meets the first  
Sunday of every  
other month at 9:45  
am in the Parish  
Office

Next meeting  
October 3, 2021

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

<http://www.usccb.org/belief-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/the-dignity-of-work-and-the-rights-of-workers>

## Readings & Resources

Rerum Novarum  
(Vatican website)  
Economic Justice for  
All: USCCB Pastoral  
Letter

*"There is no worse material poverty than one that does not allow for earning one's bread and deprives one of the dignity of work. Youth unemployment, informality, and the lack of labor rights are not inevitable; they are the result of a previous social option, of an economic system that puts profit above man; if the profit is economic, to put it above humanity or above man, is the effect of a disposable culture that considers the human being in himself as a consumer good, which can be used and then discarded."*

-POPE FRANCIS, MESSAGE FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE, OCTOBER 28, 2014

Catechism of the  
Catholic Church:  
#2426 – #2436

## Catholic Teaching about the Dignity of Work

USCCB Website: Work  
and Workers  
Backgrounder  
01-2016

In work, the person exercises and fulfills in part the potential inscribed in his nature. The primordial value of labor stems from man himself, its author and its beneficiary. Work is for man, not man for work.

Catholic Conference  
of Ohio  
<https://www.ohiocathconf.org/issues/category/economic-justice>

Everyone should be able to draw from work the means of providing for his life and that of his family, and of serving the human community.

USCCB: Search on  
"Labor Day"

Everyone has the *right of economic initiative*; everyone should make legitimate use of his talents to contribute to the abundance that will benefit all and to harvest the just fruits of his labor. He should seek to observe regulations issued by legitimate authority for the sake of the common good.

## ACTION



### Reflections

*The Lord blesses our work so that we may share its fruits with others.*

DEUTERONOMY 14:28-29: (PARAPHRASED)

*In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

ACTS 20:35

### Practical Ways to Promoting Dignity of Work

- Respect and acknowledge those who are serving you when you shop or dine.
- Have patience in this time of high stress for those who are working at the grocery.
- Smile and be kind to others
- Hold open the door for the person behind you.
- Strike up a conversation with a stranger.
- Be kind to the people who do show up to work.
- Say thank you and please.
- Pay for the person behind you.
- Listen.
- Pause before you speak.

### We Pray

Creator God,

Thank you for providing us with the gift to share our talents.

Provide our community, our nation, our world the fortitude to provide work for all which is decent and fair.

Make us faithful stewards of your creation to enhance the human dignity of our global family.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen

*(From Being Neighbor: The Catechism and Social Justice, USCCB, April 1998)*

