

St. Patrick Parish
with St. Malachi Oratory

Moving forward together as the heart and hands of Christ



Fall 2026

Better Understanding Catholic Social Teaching

Letter from the Pastor

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

St. Patrick and St. Malachi have long been know for our attention to and care of the poor and vulnerable on the Near-West Side of Cleveland. We have drawn to our doors those willing to serve the Lord while serving their neighbor. We each have our own passions in service and I think we can universally find comfort and inspiration in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

We are never called to just protect the unborn, or just care for creation. God calls us all to respect the dignity of EVERY life and to work for peace and justice, because all God's children are beloved.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops sums this up well:

> *Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of our faith. It is a teaching founded on the life and words of Jesus Christ, who came "to bring glad tidings to the poor . . . liberty to captives . . . recovery of sight to the blind"(Lk 4:18-19), and who identified himself with "the least of these," the hungry and the stranger (cf. Mt 25:45).*

In this document and throughout the 3 upcoming times "The Season of Creation" (Sept 1– Oct 4), Respect Life Month (October), and Catholic Social Teaching Month (November) we will learn more about all 7 principles of this Teaching: Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Call to Family, Community, & Participation; Rights & Responsibilities; Option for the Poor & Vulnerable; The Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers; Solidarity; and Care for God's Creation.

May we all grow in our understanding of these principles and deepen our prayer and service to our church and our community as we grow in faith together.

In solidarity,
Fr. Gurnick

For more details, prayers, and scripture inspiration, visit:
www.usccb.org/resources/seven-themes-catholic-social-teaching-resource

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred from conception to natural death, and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. The Church works to ensure all people can live in circumstances befitting their human dignity. The USCCB advocates for policies that protect vulnerable people through social programs. Learn more at usccb.org/sjp. Charitable organizations like local Catholic Charities and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul respond to needs such as housing, food, and healthcare today.

PRAYER:

God of all life, Help us to appreciate the great gift that is human life formed in your image, a reflection of your holiness. Help us to recognize you in all whom you have created: children not yet born, families affected by poverty and war, people of different abilities, people from other lands, and all who are victims of hatred and racism. Help us to bear witness to the dignity of all whom you have created, regardless of stage of life, or wealth, or ability, or color, or creed, for every person is fully equal in your loving eyes. Share with us your holy knowledge that we are all your children, each bestowed with inherent dignity. May your justice reign forever! Amen.



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