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Session 15: Catholic Social Teaching

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Session 15: Catholic Social Teaching

Materials Needed

1. Up to 7 copies of the [CST overview/instruction sheet](#) (2-sided) with one theme highlighted on each sheet (a different theme on each - so across your groups, they are all covered)
2. Newsprint and newsprint markers - enough for your small groups (up to seven)
3. Links to the video - IT set to show them

Top Three Areas

1. Students will learn that Catholic social teaching exists and is a valued aspect of the Catholic tradition
2. Students learn about up to seven (smaller groups may have to narrow down to four or so,) of the central CST themes
3. Students will express why Catholic Social Teaching matters

Persons responsible for developing this session: Ellen Mommaerts & Julie Massey

1. **Session Title: Catholic Social Teaching**
2. **Session Date: Thursday, October 12, 2017**
3. **Plenary or Small Group? Small Group**
4. **Learning Outcomes**
 - a. Demonstrate understanding of the history, mission and traditions of St. Norbert, St. Norbert College and the Norbertines.
 - b. Name, understand, and explain the seven generally-agreed-upon tenets of Catholic Social Teaching.
5. **Other Goals**, if applicable (these are goals not directly connected to student learning – e.g. forming group cohesion or identifying which students may be struggling to transition.)
 - a. For students to reflect on their experience of service.
 - b. For students to be able to name a social issue they are passionate about.
 - c. Connect CST to the Norbertine identity and mission during this, the college's Heritage Week.

2 p.m. Opening - lots of good college stuff to check in on

- Scavenger Hunt Results
 - Can make something to celebrate no matter what - did your large group come up on top? Or of your small groups, which one did the best.
- What'd they think of the Scavenger Hunt?
 - What was fun, funny, interesting?
 - What was hard to figure out?
- Have they done any of the Inauguration stuff? Whether or not they have, who's met the President yet?
- Who plans to be at the Homecoming game?
- And it's not all fun - how are classes? Tests and papers starting to fully roll in?

2:10 p.m. Enthusiastic welcome/contextualization

- A time to celebrate!
 - Heritage week, Inauguration, Homecoming - this is a special week for the life of the college
- Because of all this, it's a good time for us to continue exploring what this place is all about
 - A little over a week ago, we looked at the Catholic tradition in a broad way
 - Now we want to look at a part of that tradition that deeply shapes our experiences at SNC - Catholic social teaching.

2:15 p.m. Video input

Leaders instruct students along these lines (own words):

- Catholic social teaching - some of you may be thinking, "I know what that is!" while others could be thinking, "I have no idea what this means." And others could be in the middle.
- Don't worry - we're going to tell you everything you need to know in three minutes! Okay, maybe not *everything*! But an overview.
- While you watch we want you to pay attention to your reactions
 - What's happening in your gut as you watch this video?
 - What phrases or words stick out to you, because
 - they seem meaningful to you
 - they connect to your SNC experience
 - you have questions about them

Show the video: [CST in 3 Minutes](#) [Leader notes: You'll see that this video comes out of a specific [organization](#) in Ireland. There are a couple references to the org in the video, but basically it's covering CST as a whole. We differed about the music in the background - sort of grows on you. Feel free to play around with supplying your own background music or playing without sound if you prefer.]

Pair Share - reactions to the video

- One minute each - one speaks; other listens

2:25 p.m. Exploring Catholic Social Teaching

Intro by leaders: *CST is rooted in 2000 years of the Church wrestling with questions of justice and ministering to all persons, especially the marginalized. It's an important source of wisdom and a story still being written today. Now we want you to consider your part of this story. What are you adding?*

Small Group Activity

- Split into seven groups of 3 or 4 (if your groups is smaller, you may decide to go with fewer groups.)
- Each gets a piece of newsprint with one theme listed
- Each group is provided the CST theme overview/instruction sheet included in this plan
 - Leaders should print seven copies and highlight a different theme on each of the seven so that each theme is covered
- One of the leaders talks through the instructions

Small groups should:

First discuss

- What words capture your interest/attention/heart?
- Who do you associate with this theme/these words?
 - People you actually know who exemplify this theme - friends, relatives, neighbors, community members, people from your school or church communities
- How have you lived in a way that brings this theme to life?
- What would it mean to more fully live out this theme
 - In class?
 - In your res hall?
 - In friendships?
 - In co-curriculars?
 - In service at and beyond SNC?

On the newsprint the group should represent (in words or images)

- Key words
- Role models
- Living it out

These newsprint posters then get hung around your classroom for the next part of the plan.

2:40 p.m. - "Gallery Walk"

- Walk through the "gallery" created by the images your small groups made and observe the posters - they will be helpful for the last activity
- Optional: If you seem to have lots of time, you can cold call on a few students for reactions to the gallery walk. Alternately, you can move straight into the final activity.

2:45 p.m. - CST Memes

- In a meme, convey to your peers why Catholic social teaching matters
 - SNC may share these on social media; create with this in mind
 - Can work in pairs or back to original content group or whatever groupings make sense in your room
- Could be emailed to the leader who is signed in (to show on the screen,) or uploaded to Google classroom.
- Final sharing of memes - as each is shared ask students not from the sharing group which themes could be connected to that meme. [Leaders, we may ask you to share these with us.]

[Next two pages are the handout, which can be printed two-sided. You would need seven copies at most - if your group is large enough to tackle all seven themes. Remember to highlight one theme per copy so each group works on a different theme.]

Exploring Catholic Social Teaching

“Catholic Social Teaching is a modern attempt to systematize and explicate church teaching in new social situations, and plays an essential role in helping us to better live out some of the most important requirements of the gospel.” Thomas M. Landy, *Catholic Social Teaching in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition*

Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching taken from *A Vision of Justice: Engaging Catholic Social Teaching on the College Campus*, Crawford Sullivan, Susan and Ron Pagnucco, eds. (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2014.)

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person: the foundation of a moral vision for society. Every person is precious, people are more important than things, and the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.
- Call to Family, Community, and Participation: the human person is not only sacred, but social. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions in society and must be supported. People have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking the common good and well-being of all, especially the poorest.
- Rights and Responsibilities: Human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Every person has the right to life and the right to those things required to live in dignity. Corresponding to rights are responsibilities - to one another, our families, and the larger society.
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: A basic moral test is how the poorest and the most vulnerable are faring. In a world characterized by growing prosperity for some and pervasive poverty for many, we must put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers: The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is not just a way to make a living but is a form of participating in God's creation. The basic rights of workers must be respected - the right to productive work, decent and fair wages, the organization of unions, private property, and economic initiative.
- Solidarity: We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, and loving our neighbor has global implications in today's world. Love for our brothers and sisters demands that we work to promote peace and justice.
- Care for God's Creation: Care and stewardship of the earth shows our respect for the Creator. We are called to protect people and the planet. We cannot ignore the environmental challenge and its moral and ethical dimensions.

Small Group Instructions

Read over the description of your theme

- What words capture your interest/attention/heart?
- Who do you associate with this theme/these words?
 - People you actually know who exemplify this theme - friends, relatives, neighbors, community members, people from your school or church communities
- How have you lived in a way that brings this theme to life?
- What would it mean to more fully live out this theme
 - In class?
 - In your res hall?
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On the newsprint the group should represent (in words or images)

- Key words
- Role models
- Living it out

Background information for instructors:

Catholic Social Teaching is a holistic approach to justice. One cannot accept only parts of CST. We must be challenged by all seven themes. We cannot pick and choose the themes that work for us or keep us safe from personal and institutional change as they are all interrelated and dependent upon one another.

- “Catholic Social Teaching benefits directly from the longer and broader tradition of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition (CIT) because the latter helps us to see who we are as human beings. The CIT ultimately grounds its account of mutual obligation in a notion of what it means to be human, and indeed in an account that simply as persons, we have certain rights. If one were to change those foundational assumptions, one would come to a very different ethical conclusion about our mutual obligations to one another” (Landy, pg. 24-25).

Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges And Directions (USCCB)

- <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/sharing-catholic-social-teaching-challenges-and-directions.cfm>

Brief Narrative describing the session (3 – 5 sentences offering the leaders a general sense of what will take place on this date.)

We expect to offer a basic grounding in CST, likely through a video (we’re reviewing a few options of existing videos.) After the video, students will pair share - what words caught their attention in the video. All students provided a handout that gives a brief description of each of the seven themes. Students are broken into 7 groups, each assigned one theme. The small groups are given questions to discuss related to their theme, that help them reflect on how they can be advocates and agents of change related to this theme. Each group creates a meme to promote their on campus. Large group sharing - brief recap of theme and sharing meme.