

DIPPING INTO THE CATECHISM

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From the Compendium to the Catechism paragraphs: 508-516

What is forbidden by the seventh commandment ?

Above all, the seventh commandment forbids theft, which is the taking or using of another's property against the reasonable will of the owner. This can be done also by paying unjust wages; by speculation on the value of goods in order to gain an advantage to the detriment of others; or by the forgery of cheques or invoices. Also forbidden is tax evasion or business fraud; wilfully damaging private or public property; usury; corruption; the private abuse of common goods; work deliberately done poorly; and waste.

What is the content of the social doctrine of the church ?

The social doctrine of the Church is an organic development of the truth of the Gospel about the dignity of the human person and his social dimension offering principles for reflection, criteria for judgment, and norms and guidelines for action.

When does the Church intervene in social areas ?

The Church intervenes by making a moral judgment about economic and social matters when the fundamental rights of the person, the common good, or the salvation of souls requires it.

How should social and economic life be pursued ?

It should be pursued according to its own proper methods within the sphere of the moral order, at the service of the whole human being and of the entire human community in keeping with social justice. Social and economic life should have the human person as its author, centre and goal.

WHAT WOULD BE OPPOSED TO THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH ?

Opposed to the social doctrine of the Church are economic and social systems that sacrifice the basic rights of persons or that make profit the exclusive norm or ultimate end. For this reason the Church rejects the ideologies associated in modern times with Communism or with atheistic and totalitarian forms of socialism. But in the practice of capitalism the Church also rejects self centred individualism and an absolute primacy of the laws of the marketplace over human labour.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF WORK ?

Work is both a duty and a right through which human beings collaborate with God the Creator. Indeed, by working with commitment and competence we fulfil the potential inscribed in our nature, honour the Creator's gifts and the talents



received from Him, provide for ourselves and for our families, and serve the human community. Furthermore, by the grace of God, work can be a means of sanctification and collaboration with Christ for the salvation of others.

TO WHAT TYPE OF WORK DOES EVERY PERSON HAVE A RIGHT ?

Access to secure and honest employment must be open to all without unjust discrimination and with respect for free economic initiative and fair compensation.

WHAT RESPONSIBILITY DOES THE STATE HAVE IN REGARD TO LABOUR ?

It is the role of the State to guarantee individual freedom and private property, as well as a stable currency and efficient public services. It is also the State's responsibility to oversee and direct the exercise of human rights in the economic sector. According to circumstances, society must help citizens to find work.

WHAT IS THE TASK OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT ?

Business managers are responsible for the economic and ecological effects of their operations. They must consider the good of persons and not only the increase of profits, even though profits are necessary to assure investments, the future of the business, employment, and the good progress of economic life.



Photo entitled: A Church in Shanty Town by Allen Sheffield, Fine Art America.

It is essential that every Catholic has access to good Catechesis to be able to deepen their faith. The Diocese of Plymouth recommends the many Catechetical Workshops from 'Franciscan at Home,' for more information on access to these and online or real group sessions contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk