

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING - KEY DOCUMENTS

	KEY DOCUMENTS	THEMES
1891 Leo XIII	Rerum Novarum <i>The Condition of Labour</i>	Examines working conditions in industrialised countries and insists of workers rights. The Church, employers and workers should all work together to build a just society.
1931 Pius X	Quodagesimo Anno (40 years after RN) <i>Reconstruction of the Social Order</i>	At the time of major economic abuses of capitalism & communism. Unity between capital & labour. Ownership brings social responsibilities. Subsidiarity.
1961 John XXIII	Mater et Magistra <i>Mother and Teacher</i>	Updates earlier teaching applies to agriculture & aid to developing countries - thus internationalising CST. Role of laity in applying social teaching as an integral part of Christian life.
1963 John XXIII	Pacem in Terris <i>Peace on Earth</i>	With the threat of nuclear war, this is a plea for peace based upon the social order from a framework of rights and duties applying to individuals, public authorities & world community.
1965 John XXIII	Gaudium et Spes <i>Church in the Modern World</i>	Church's duty is discernment of the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel. Principles of cultural development & justice, enhancing human dignity & the common good. Work for peace.
1967 Paul VI	Populorum Progressio <i>Development of Peoples</i>	Charter for Development - new name for peace. Deals with structural policy, aid & trade. Limits put on profit motive & right to private property. Christians to strive for international justice.
1971 Paul VI	Octogesima Adveniens (80 Years after RN) <i>A Call to Action</i>	Rome doesn't necessarily have the answer: need for local church to respon to specific situations. Urbanisation has brought new injustices. We are called to political action.
1971	Justice in the World <i>World Synod of Bishops</i>	Justice is a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel . . . The Church must examine its conscience about its own lifestyle and so witness to the Gospel. The importance of education for Justice.
1975 Paul VI	Evangelii Nuntiandi <i>Evangelisation in the Modern World</i>	Profound links between evangelisation & development / liberation. Only the kingdom is absolute, everything else is relative. All levels of society are to be transformed by the power of the Good News.
1981 John Paul II	Laborem Exercens <i>On Human Work</i>	Work is the central social issue. Work increases human dignity. Priority of labour over capital. Rights of workers (especially women) and unions. Critique of capitalism & Marxism.
1987 John Paul II	Sollicitudo Rei Socialis <i>Social Concern</i>	Updates Pop Pro with analysis of global development. N/S divide blamed on confrontation between capitalisation & Marxism. Conversion from structure of sin towards solidarity & option for the poor.
1991 John Paul II	Centesimus Annus <i>One hundred Years</i> (since RN)	Review of CST & major events of last 100 yrs, constantly affirming human dignity & human rights, justice & peace. Fall of Marxism does not signify victory for capitalism.
1994 John Paul II	Tertio Millennio Adveniente <i>Coming of the Third Millennium</i>	Programme for preparing for the Millennium based upon Jubilee Law, which Jesus proclaimed.
1996	The Common Good <i>Bishops' Conference of England & Wales</i>	Written before the General election & for a specific time / place. Not a complete resume of CST but to give help and remind people of their responsibilities.
2001 John Paul II	Novo Millennio Ineunte <i>At the beginning of the New Millennium</i>	Reflection on 35 yrs are Vatican II, the Jubilee Year & the challenges that face us in the future. Mention of the ecological crisis, problems of peace and lack of human rights, inter-religious dialogue.