



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, November 13, 2022

St. Martin de Porres – Patron of Social Justice

“Martin was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579. As a person of mixed ancestry, he was at the bottom of the social ladder, and he joined the Dominican convent as a lay servant. Within a few years, the prior permitted Martin to take vows as a brother. Martin fed around 160 people each day with the alms he collected. He fasted and prayed with abandon. When the convent needed to pay a debt, Martin humbly offered himself: ‘I’m only a poor mulatto. Sell me.’ Upon his death in 1639, the great personages of Lima came to pay their respects. Martin de Porres was canonized in 1962 as the patron of social justice.” (*Magnificat*, November 2022, 24 (9).

“Catholic social teaching is central to our faith and is based on — and inseparable from — our understanding of human life and dignity. These teachings are derived from: the Gospels and the words of Christ; papal statements and encyclicals; and Catholic bishops’ statements and pastoral letters. Catholic social teaching calls us all to work for the common good, help build a just society, uphold the dignity of human life, and lift up our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters.” (Minnesota Catholic Conference)

The following are excerpted from: “Catholic Teaching and Principles,” U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, describing seven themes of Catholic social teaching.



1 LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, every person’s life and dignity must be respected and supported from conception through natural death....



2 CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

.... How we organize our society — socially, economically, legally, and politically — directly affects human dignity and the ability of every human person to grow in community....



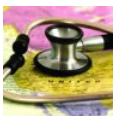
3 SOLIDARITY

We are one human family. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace....



4 DIGNITY OF WORK

The economy must serve people.... To uphold the dignity of work, the basic rights of workers must be respected....



5 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Every person has a fundamental right to life.... Each person also has a right to the conditions for living a decent life — food, health care, housing, education, and employment....



6 OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

Scripture teaches that God has a special concern for the poor and vulnerable. The church calls on all of us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.... in both our daily lives and public policies....



7 CARE FOR GOD’S CREATION

The world that God created has been entrusted to all of us. Our stewardship of the earth is a form of participation in God’s act of creating and sustaining the world....