



Catholic Social Teaching #4 Call to Family, Community and Participation

***{Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Luke 4:16-19**

After the reading, conclude with this prayer:

Creator God, help us to join with others as disciples who seek to live the Gospel and transform our communities. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. We hear in the reading this verse "He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free". How does Jesus help the oppressed to go free? How are we called to assist in this mission?

YouTube Video: CST 101|Call to Family, Community and Participation (3:44 min) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giOgWakrgQs>

After the video, read this passage out loud from no 64 of St. John Paul II, The Family in the Modern World (Familiaris Consortio): "While building up the Church in love, the Christian family places itself at the service of the human person and the world, really bringing about the "human advancement" whose substance was given in summary form in the Synod's Message to families: 'Another task for the family is to form persons in love and also to practice love in all its relationships, so that it does not live closed in on itself, but remains open to the community, moved by a sense of justice and concern for others, as well as by a consciousness of its responsibility towards the whole of society.'"

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. The video shares that the family is the first place where we learn how to give of ourselves and how to communicate. Do you have any reflections on what you see in our society as compared to what God's plan is for a family? Did the video change your perspective on the importance of the family unit and how it relates to a society as a whole in any way?
3. The video shares that participation is not just having a voice, but also having the opportunity to offer impact. Do you see this as an important distinction? Why?
4. What are ways in our families and faith communities that we can cultivate a sense of responsibility for building a society in which the dignity of each person is recognized and protected?
5. In your family, neighborhood, school, or faith community, how might you be called to act with others to help shape our local and global communities in God's vision of justice?
6. This video touches on the importance of subsidiarity and how Catholics view it in relationship to helping society. The Catechism defines subsidiarity as the principle that "a community of a higher order should not interfere in the internal life of a community of a lower order, depriving the latter of its functions, but rather should support it in case of need and help to coordinate its activity with the activities of the rest of society, always with a view to the common good." (CCC 1883) What are your thoughts on this subject and how it should relate to decisions made for societies?
7. How does your own participation in one or more communities enable you to contribute toward creating a global community in God's vision of justice?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Do some research on the term subsidiarity and its relationship to Catholic teaching. You may find this article helpful: <https://bismarckdiocese.com/news/subsidiarity-a-key-principle-of-catholic-social-teaching>
- Discuss this concept of the importance of the family unit and how it relates to society with another family member.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) Please download and pray this prayer together: <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/help-us-build-communities-gods-vision-justice>. **Help Us Build Communities in God's Vision of Justice**

Additional Information: [Principles of Social Teaching](#) and [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church](#)

This outline was created with resources taken Catholic Relief Services from <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/CST-101>