



Teachings of the Catholic Church: Quotes from Scripture, Documents, and Leaders On Solidarity and Equality for Reflection

From Scripture

If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? - James 2:15-16

I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. - John 17:20-23

If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy. - 1 Corinthians 26

From *Gaudium et Spes* (Joy and Hope)

Gaudium et Spes, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, was one of the four constitutions resulting from Vatican II. It begins "The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well."

7. God intended the earth with everything contained in it for the use of all human beings and peoples. Thus, under the leadership of justice and in the company of charity, created goods should be in abundance for all in like manner.

29. Therefore, although rightful differences exist between men, the equal dignity of persons demands that a more humane and just condition of life be brought about. For excessive economic and social differences between the members of the one human family or population groups cause scandal, and militate against social justice, equity, the dignity of the human person, as well as social and international peace.

From *Centesimus Annus* (Hundredth Year)

Centesimus Annus is an encyclical which was written by Pope John Paul II in 1991 on the hundredth anniversary of *Rerum Novarum* (Of New Things), an encyclical issued by Pope Leo XIII in 1891 in response to the social conflict resulting from capitalization and industrialization in the late 19th century.

13. A person who is deprived of something he can call "his own", and of the possibility of earning a living through his own initiative, comes to depend on the social machine and on those who control it. This makes it much more difficult for him to recognize his dignity as a person, and hinders progress towards the building up of an authentic human community.

From Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth)

Caritas in Veritate, an encyclical written by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009, is concerned with the problems of global development and progress towards the common good, arguing that both Love and Truth are essential elements of an effective response.

7. To love someone is to desire that person's good and to take effective steps to secure it. Besides the good of the individual, there is a good that is linked to living in society: the common good. It is the good of "all of us", made up of individuals, families and intermediate groups who together constitute society.

From Pope Francis' comments on July 8, 2013

In July 2013, Pope Francis visited the Italian island of Lampedusa, to pray for illegal migrants lost at sea trying to reach Europe.

The culture of comfort, which makes us think only of ourselves, makes us insensitive to the cries of other people, makes us live in soap bubbles which, however lovely, are insubstantial; they offer a fleeting and empty illusion which results in indifference to others; indeed, it even leads to the globalization of indifference. In this globalized world, we have fallen into globalized indifference. We have become used to the suffering of others: it doesn't affect me; it doesn't concern me; it's none of my business!

From The Catechism of the Catholic Church

1938. There exist also sinful inequalities that affect millions of men and women. These are in open contradiction of the Gospel: Their equal dignity as persons demands that we strive for fairer and more humane conditions. Excessive economic and social disparity between individuals and peoples of the one human race is a source of scandal and militates against social justice, equity, human dignity, as well as social and international peace.

From DOCAT: What to Do?

DOCAT is a companion to *YOUCAT: The Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church*. *DOCAT* is an adaptation of the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, a summary of the social teachings of the Church.

103. For a believer, what is the most radical reason to practice solidarity? The solidarity of Jesus. No one ever practiced greater solidarity than Jesus. Jesus was sent as the living sign of God's solidarity with mankind, which cannot help itself. The Son of God not only declares his solidarity with all mankind; he even lays down his life for us. This definitive self-giving for the sake of others represents the highest possible love and solidarity and should become the standard for Christian action