FaithatHome

Tools for Your Household's Continued Growth in Faith

Pope Francis and Catholic Social Teaching

So much of what Pope Francis did as pope — how he lived, what he wrote, what he said in his infamous off the cuff interviews on the papal plane — illustrated the themes of Catholic Social Teaching that we have been exploring this year in Encounter. Pope Francis wrote and preached beautifully and lovingly about care for creation, human relationships, the economy, peace, concern for the poor and marginalized, and so much more. He chose to live simply, rejecting the trappings and privilege of the papal office. He reveled in encounters with people of all cultures and circumstances. As we review what it means to live the themes of CST: Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Call to Family, Community, and Participation; Rights and Responsibilities; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers; Solidarity; and Care for God's Creation, we give thanks for the life of a pope who brought them to life and challenged us to do the same.

Find prayers by Pope Francis, including prayers for children, here.

Prepare for Mass by discussing the readings together!

Celebrate St. Isidore the Farmer on May 15. He is patron of rural workers who respected the earth and all people.

Access this newsletter on the St. Catherine's website. On the Faith Formation/Encounter page, scroll down to "Mark your Calendar" to find each month's newsletter.

FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

These are historic days in our Church, as we mourn Pope Francis and prepare for a new pope. This article offers great ideas for talking with your children about what is happening.

As summer approaches, make a family summer reading list! There are many good books for children of various ages that amplify and reinforce the themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Check out this list as starting point.

As you make summer travel plans, look into the possibility of visiting interesting sites related to our Catholic faith. In this year of Jubilee, several places have been designated as pilgrimage sites. And don't forget to consult https://masstimes.org/ !

Remember to follow up on the action plan you made at the May Encounter. Local agencies who put the themes of Catholic Social Teaching into practice on a daily basis need your ongoing support!

FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH TEENS

With your teen, explore these resources about the process of electing a new pope, the pope's role in the Catholic Church, and more.

During this year of Jubilee, the Vatican has designated a number of Jubilee Days to recognize and celebrate different groups of people and various ministries in the Church. April 25-27 was the Jubilee of Teenagers. The US bishops produced a resource for those who work with teens. At the bottom of the first page, find a reflection for teens, and in the last pages, find prayers for teens.

ADULT GROWTH IN FAITH

No matter our stage in life (single, married, student, parenting, empty-nester, retiree, etc.) we attend to our growth in faith and live more deeply into our baptismal call.

In this article, Heidi Schlumpf reflects on how Pope Francis called upon the Church to focus on and live out more intentionally the themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

The teaching and preaching of Pope Francis was steeped in Catholic Social Teaching. Read about a talk he gave in 2021 in which he explained how CST is part of the established tradition of our Church.

Explore the process of selecting a new pope here.

Pope Francis updated the Catechism of the Catholic Church's teaching on the death penalty, declaring it "inadmissible because it is an attack on then inviolability and dignity of the person." Catholic Mobilizing Network promotes the life and dignity of ALL human persons by working to end the death penalty, reform our justice system, and address the sin of racism.

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