

Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

We saw last week that the laity have the primary responsibility and privilege of active involvement in partisan politics, and in organised economic and social action in the various branches of civil life, that is, we have an opportunity and a duty to sanctify the world through our Christian commitment. In this, we are supported by the teaching of our Church. Through her teaching office, the Church gives guidance on the moral values that economic and political systems should respect if they are to uphold human dignity. It is not the role of the hierarchical Church to take the initiative in partisan politics. The Church's teaching is a moral teaching, an ethical teaching. In this, it follows the example of Our Lord, who refused to align Himself with particular political movements, and disappointed those who expected Him to come on clouds of glory and drive the Romans into the sea. The concern of the Church is with human rights and the good of souls. The responsibility for applying the Church's teaching in practice rests with each of us individually, and we exercise it by making our commitment through all the means that society offers us to participate in public life - but make that commitment we must.

So, CST is a part of the Church's moral theology; it is grounded in Scripture and in natural law, and traditionally has been directed towards the dignity of the human person and the defence of fundamental human rights; in recent times, particularly since the advent of Pope Francis, it has been expanded by an environmental dimension to include the rights of the Earth, to respond, as Pope Francis put it, to 'the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth'.
Enough for today, but.....

