



The Catholic Church has **seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching**. The Social Justice Committee at St. Cecilia's Parish has decided to share these with you through our quarterly newsletter.



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

In this issue we are focusing on principle 3 which includes shelter. Please see article on Page 2 by Deacon Alan Christy regarding the remodeling of the Emergency Residence 4-plex in Ames for families in need of housing.

Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

*We are called to be people for others. But what does this mean in practical terms? How do we translate faith into action? To guide us in this endeavor, the bishops of the United States wrote *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*, which outlines seven principles of social justice in Catholic teaching. By following these principles, we will discover how to live as people for others. The seven principles are:*

1. **Dignity of the Human Person.** *We are called to ask whether our actions as a society respect or threaten the life and dignity of the human person.*
2. **Call to Family, Community, and Participation.** *We are called to support the family—the principle social institution—so that people can participate in society, build a community spirit, and promote the well being of all.*
3. **Rights and Responsibilities.** *We are called to protect the rights that all people have to those things required for a decent human life, such as food, clothing, and shelter.*
4. **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.** *We are called to pay special attention to the needs of those who are poor.*
5. **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers.** *We are called to protect the basic rights of all workers: the right to engage in productive work, fair wages, private property, and the right to organize, join unions, and pursue economic opportunity.*
6. **Solidarity.** *We are called to recognize that, because God is our Father, we are all brothers and sisters, with the responsibility to care for one another.*
7. **Care for God's Creation.** *We are called to care for all that God has made.*

In the Parable of the Last Judgment, Jesus makes clear our responsibility to tend to the needs of others. The Church teaches this responsibility in these seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching reminding us that, if we want to live as followers of Jesus, we need to live as people for others.

: "Catholic Teaching and Principles," [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops](#).

(Above from website "Loyola Press—A Jesuit Ministry")

Social Justice Contacts

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET -
1-800-842-2243 **STC Contact:**
Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

AMOS STC - Contact: Mary Ross
232-5080

APPALACHIA WAREHOUSE -
2019 Pullman Street, Ames. **STC**
Contact: Lynn Franco 232-0898

BIRTHRIGHT OF AMES -
108 Hayward Ave., Suite 202, Ames
515-292-8414. **STC Contact:**
Kathy Ridnour 232-1697

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAS - STC Contact:
Peggy Murdock (515) 708-2439

EMERGENCY RESIDENCE
PROJECT - STC Contact: Julie Haas
232-7138

FOOD AT FIRST - 516 Kellogg Ave.,
Ames. 515-344-4357 **STC Contact:**
Doreen Berg 956-3414

GABRIEL PROJECT- STC Contact:
Beth Dahlke 460-0403

GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE, INC. - 613 Clark Ave.,
Ames 515-296-1449 **STC Contact:**
Doreen Berg 956-3414

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF
CENTRAL IOWA - 515-232-8815.
STC Contact: Alan Christy 231-8099

MEALS ON WHEELS (Homeward) -
1114 S. Duff, Ames. **STC Contact:**
Cathy Kaspar 233-0517

OPERATION RICE BOWL - STC
Contact: Cynthia Shriver 292-6584

PRISON MINISTRY - STC Contact:
Dave Temple 232-9271

SAINT CECILIA SOCIAL JUSTICE
COMMITTEE. STC Contact:
Mary Ross 232-5080

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE,
STC Contact: Garland Dahlke
460-0403

The Social Justice Committee meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Sunroom. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Page 2

Holy Ground (by Deacon Alan Christy)



In 1997 the Emergency Residence Project (our local shelter for the homeless) asked if the leaders of our local Habitat for Humanity affiliate would partner with them to **build a new four-plex apartment building to serve as transitional housing for homeless families.** The plan was for Habitat to supply the labor and ERP to supply the materials. We did them one better. We were able to raise over one hundred fifty thousand dollars worth of in-kind donations of labor and materials. Over eighty local businesses contributed to the cause. Even more remarkable was how we built it. We partnered with the Iowa State University Homecoming Committee, the Story County Building Trades class, and local homebuilding subcontractors to build the project from foundation to drywall in only six days.

During the week of the "Blitz Build", I had the feeling that we were standing on Holy Ground. We worked three shifts of about 50 students per shift. At the beginning of each shift, we had a short safety talk and then a person from Campus Ministry gave a short devotion. All of the devotions were inspiring, but I particularly remember one. The minister began with the creation story about how God breathed the breath of life into Adam. Then the minister asked all of us to join hands in a primitive prayer. We gathered into a huddle and breathed onto the ground saying "RUAH!" (The Hebrew word for Wind, Breath and/or Spirit of God.) I could see that we were the body of Christ, and that we were making this ground Holy.

It has now been fifteen years since we dedicated that apartment building, and it has been a blessing to the community beyond our wildest dreams. Over three hundred children and their parents have called this humble building home as it continues to serve the Ames community. Vic Moss, the director of ERP, told me that during the summer as he walks about the grounds, the sounds of children at play greet him as though it were a schoolyard at recess. Even the neighborhood kids come to play. I have been a builder for over 40 years, and of all the homes and apartment buildings I have built, this one is the one that I am most proud to be a part of.

Fifteen years of use like this have been hard on the building, and it is in need of remodeling. The cost of the materials to remodel one unit is \$13,000. Again, we plan to remodel using volunteer labor wherever we can. Our hope is to involve 4 local churches to donate the money and supply the volunteers. Saint Cecilia Catholic Church is the first to take on the challenge. I will use my many years of homebuilding experience to organize material delivery and supervise the volunteers. Please consider donating to this worthy project. Together we can build upon Holy Ground once again, and with the help of God, create a safe haven for families in need of a place to live.

If you would like to donate to this project please make the check out to Emergency Residence Project with a note designating the funds for the remodel and mail it to Alan Christy, 2825 Clayton Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50014. All donations are tax deductible.

In **March 2015**, there are a total of **38 teens and adults**, the majority from our parish traveling to **Nicaragua to do mission work** for two weeks. The mission trips are sponsored by *One Heart Catholic Missions*, which is a local non-profit corporation run by Matt and Dawn Aitchison, parishioners at St. Cecilia. If you are interested in helping them with needed last minute donations, please contact **Dawn Aitchison at 515-460-7655**