"The church's social teaching is itself a valid instrument of evangelization. As such, it proclaims God and God's mystery of salvation in Christ to every human being, and for that very reason reveals men and women to themselves. In this light, and only in this light, does it concern itself with everything else: the human rights of the individual, and in particular of the 'working class', the family and education, the duties of the state, the ordering of national and international life, culture, war and peace, and respect for life from the moment of conception until death.” John Paul II, *One Hundred Years*, 1991, #54

Sources of Church's Social Teaching
- *Scripture*: Old and New Testaments
- *Church writers*: early, medieval, contemporary
- *Documents*: Vatican, regional and national, ecumenical
- *Witnesses*: individuals and communities

Major Lessons of Church's Social Teaching:

1. **Link of religious and social**: no dualism; faith and justice together
2. **Dignity of human person**: image of God
3. **Political and economic rights**: God-given; realized in community with duties attached
4. **Option for the poor**: preferential, non-exclusive for materially poor
5. **Link of love and justice**: love of neighbor demands justice; overcome structures
6. **Common good**: total social conditions for full humanity; role of government
7. **Subsidiarity**: action on the local level whenever possible
8. **Political participation**: democracy as the best way; accountability and responsibility
9. **Economic justice**: economy is for the people; fair wages, good conditions; sharing
10. **Work**: product of humans as co-creators; dignity; priority of labor over capital
11. **Property**: common destination of earth's goods: social mortgage on private property
12. **Solidarity**: interdependence of human family; overcome "gaps"
13. **Liberation**: of the whole person; transform oppressive structures
14. **Promotion of peace**: not absence of conflict but presence of justice
15. **Ecological consciousness**: concern with resources, environment and created order

Major Documents:

*The Condition of Labor*, Leo XIII, 1891
*The Reconstruction of the Social Order*, Pius XI, 1931
*Christianity and Social Progress*, John XXIII, 1961
*Peace on Earth*, John XXIII, 1963
*The Development of Peoples*, Paul VI, 1967
*A Call to Action*, Paul VI, 1971

*Justice in the World*, Synod of Bishops, 1971
*Evangelisation in the Modern World*, Paul VI, 1975
*On Human Work*, John Paul II, 1981
*Social Concerns of the Church*, John Paul II, 1987
*One Hundred Years*, John Paul II, 1991
*God is Love*, Benedict XVI, 2005
*Love in Truth*, Benedict XVI, 2008

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