

# Superior Catechist



Volume 2 Number 2

Winter 2005

## What is Social Justice?

*Tricia Duhaime*

As Catholics, we know that our faith is meant to make a difference in our own lives and the lives of those around us. A great example of someone who did exactly that is Mother Teresa; she lived a life of great faith, trust, love and service. God called her, as he calls us; to love one another and put our faith into action...this is called social justice. The Church gives us the Catholic Social Teachings to come to a better understanding of what we are called to do in the light of our faith.

- **The life and dignity of the human person.** Of all the basic Catholic Social Teachings, the idea of the life and dignity of the human person is the most basic. All people are a reflection of the image of God and thus all human life at all stages from conception through death is sacred and should be treated as such.
- **Call to family, community, and participation.** We are called to be a part of a family and community and to actively participate in it. In community we learn that a part of love is justice and that others' needs are as important as our own.
- **Rights and responsibilities of the human person.** All of us have the right to basic human dignity "i.e., food, clothing, shelter, education, employment, medical care." We also have a responsibility to those who do not have it. Christ relates care of the poor to the very heart of living the gospel.

- **Preferential option for and with the poor and vulnerable.** We are called to put the needs of the poor first...loving and serving the poor.
- **Dignity of work and the rights of workers.** People have a right to decent work, fair wages, and private property. It's another way that we live out our dignity.
- **Solidarity.** Working together as one family...for the dignity and rights of each other.
- **Care for God's creation.** We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.



Yes, it's a lot of information to process but it all works together for the Glory of God. Simply stated, living out the Catholic Social Teachings brings us closer to the Father and it helps us achieve the reason we were created...to love, serve and know God.

For more information about the Catholic Social Teachings, Social Justice and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development contact: Tricia Duhaime at 715-392-2937,

# DISCOVERING Catholic Social Teaching

Abbie Daigle

Since discovering Catholic social teaching, I have been fascinated by how Jesus' teachings apply to the urgent social issues of the modern world. I have been discovering a group whose human dignity is routinely overlooked.

The North Philadelphia environs of Thea Bowman Women's Center is known for drugs, violence, unemployment, abuse, prostitution, hunger, and most any social ill you can think of. Women come to the center to take a shower, do laundry, have a meal, find community, and gain peace of mind.

As I started at the center, I discovered that the main factor influencing the women's life situations is drug addiction. I wasn't sure how to react to that. Aren't addicts people who foolishly *chose* this lifestyle that often involves crime, violence, wasting talents, living off others, sexual immorality? These women seemed "down and out" permanently. Even with "recovery" from addiction, many are mentally ill, disabled, illiterate, or lack even the ability to learn skills necessary to function in a non-dysfunctional segment of society. Where is the hope for these? Why even bother?

❧ *Why bother?* ❧

*Because Jesus did.*

I think Jesus' followers thought the same thing when he recognized dignity in the hemorrhaging woman, the woman at the well, the lame man who walked, Zaccheus, children, the one "lost sheep." Why bother? Because Jesus did. We Christians are called to imitate Jesus' love for each of them, to heal brokenness, to bring hope of a better way, to journey together.

Being at Thea has shown me that addicts cannot just be written off as "bad" people. I have been given the gift of knowing them as people *before* finding out things that would earn them labels such as "homeless," "crack head," "thief," "ex con," "prostitute," and I absolutely believe that there is good in each of them.

When I started at the women's center, Trina made me feel at home in one of the most uncomfortable new situations I have experienced. She was gentle, always taking care of others, and her faith guided her to many good decisions. After 20 years of addiction, she had been clean for several months. But my heart broke as she sank into depression and started using again. In her addiction, she became an entirely different person. She stole and lied. Her attitude and language changed. Everything in her life slid as her goal became to satisfy her craving for crack.



Even if labels fit, they do not define a person. Life stories that precede addiction often reveal suffering enough for several lifetimes, and drugs are used because they seem to numb the overwhelming pain.

Kelly is 28 years old, homeless, and her four children have been taken from her. She is struggling to free herself from 17 years of addiction to heroin and crack. From this information, some would dismiss her as worthless. But wait for her to tell you that she became addicted at age eleven because her mother used heroin to paralyze Kelly long enough for her mother to get high. Kelly's mother supported her habit by letting her drug dealers abuse Kelly. Kelly's children live with addicts, and she has no access to them. In taking responsibility for her recovery, she became homeless as she left her boyfriend of several years because they lived next door to her drug dealer.

When Jesus spoke of "the least of these" as brothers and sisters, I used to picture an innocent victim. It is more difficult to see one whose choices have so negatively affected themselves and others, and still realize that they have "full value" in God's eyes. God's love is a free gift; one that I am grateful to be able to both give to and receive from the women of Thea Women's Center.

## *A QUESTION OF JUSTICE*

*Where in justice is "injustice"?  
Is justice equality? What is justice?  
The spirit wind blows where she wills.*

*Does nature strive for equality and balance?  
In the ongoing drive to balance the air  
Ongoing cycles of storms  
Fair weather and foul  
Conditions for growth  
And losses of life are created*

*So?*

*What about economics, wealth, influence  
And justice?*

*Are we humans willing to endure the storms  
And graces such a search for equality would cause?*

*Who is humanity to think it can quell the storm  
Or harness the wind or to fly*

*Will there be a time when all will be in balance?  
If so, how long can that time  
Be sustained*

*Does humanity have the power, the wisdom, the desire  
To maintain the balance*

*Or must we put it in God's capable hands  
And are we willing to let it stay there  
Or must we reassert our desire*

*For control and having done that  
Then look back to the "good old days"  
With fond myopic memories?*



---

# RESOURCES FOR GROWTH

---

## Full Length Films with Social Teaching Themes

### 0659 Romero

Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador was converted to the cause of the oppressed and was murdered for his passionate stand against social injustice in his country. 105 minutes, VHS, PG-13, sh, a, 1989

### 0197 To Kill A Mockingbird

Virtues of courage and compassion illustrated in a story of racial conflict and the meaning of justice. 120 minutes VHS, not rated, sh, a, 1984

### 2590 Norma Rae

Story of a southern millworker who revolutionizes a small town and discovers a power in herself she never knew she had. She organizes her fellow factory workers to fight for better conditions and wages. Based on a true story. 118 minutes, DVD, sh, a, rated PG

### 2372 Mattewan

A West Virginia town explodes when miners clash with the owners of a tyrannical coal company, igniting racial hostility, corruption, betrayal and violence, 142 minutes, VHS, not rated, sh, a, 1987.

### 1650 Entertaining Angels

Dorothy Day's amazing conversion story and life of service. Starting as a journalist involved with radical socialists and communists, she became Catholic and brought the love of God to those experiencing poverty. She started the Catholic Worker Newspaper, houses of hospitality, and worked for women's suffrage, civil rights. 112 minutes, VHS, sh, a, 1996

### 2525 Pay It Forward

A social studies project turns into a passion for junior high student Trevor McKinney. 123 minutes, DVD, jh, sh, a, 2000, PG-13.

## Videos

### 2499 In the Footsteps of Jesus: Catholic Social Teaching USCC

A brief overview of Catholic Social Teaching. Each theme is highlighted through the stories of extraordinary individuals sharing their commitments to promoting justice and peace. 28 minutes, Guide, VHS, a, 2003.

### 1464 Youth Ministry Training – Tape 5

Program 10 – Empowering Youth for Justice and Service, 40 minutes, VHS, 1996

### 1836 Work of God's Hands

Filmed in India. Be present with Mother Teresa as she works among the children, sick and dying. Challenges young people to discover the way they can live and work with hands of care and kindness. 15 minutes, Guide, VHS, jh, sh, a, 1997.

**Web Sites**     [www.catholicrelief.org](http://www.catholicrelief.org)

[www.usccb.org/cchd/index.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/index.shtml)





# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AS A FAITH COMMUNITY

*Diocese of Superior*

**1905 -- 2005**

A strong commitment and great sacrifices have been made so that our faith not only survives over the years, but more importantly that it flourishes. A centennial is a wonderful time to learn, to recall and to build on all that has gone before. This is what will give us pride, enthusiasm and courage to handle the challenges before us and to walk tall into the future.

The official centennial celebration will be May 1- November 20, 2005. A **resource packet** for children and youth has been compiled in collaboration with the Offices of Religious Education and Schools. It was mailed to catechetical leaders in January. Hopefully, that person will share the contents with the parish as is appropriate.

In addition to activities your parish may choose to sponsor, you are certainly invited to bring your family and friends to visit the Cathedral in Superior. However, for security reasons and time constraints, it is best to arrange your visits around already scheduled events.

All are invited and encouraged to participate in the following important diocesan celebrations:

- Distribution of Parish Resource Packets                      April 1, 2005
- Diocesan Centennial Kick-off Sunday                              May 1, 2005
- Diocesan Histories distributed to parishes                      August 2005
- Diocesan Family Festival (picnic)  
  Lucius Woods Park, Solon Springs                              August 28, 2005
- Centennial Faith Forum    September 28 & 29  
  Fr. Bruce Nieli, CSP  
  Telemark, Ladysmith, Amery
- Parish Sunday Celebration of Thanksgiving                      November 13, 2005
- Closure of Centennial Year    November 20, 2005

## **“Creating Safe & Sacred Places for Children and Youth”**

Diocese of Superior Responding to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter:  
“Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal”

Creating a safe and sacred place for children and youth begins with providing an environment that is welcoming, friendly, comforting and one that has clear guidelines, boundaries and expectations. Below you will find reminders and helpful hints that will assist you in minimizing discipline problems and in establishing a safe and engaging learning atmosphere.

- Pray for yourself and your students as you enter into each new learning experience.
- Be prepared for class before it begins. Have materials out and ready to go before the first student arrives so that you can greet each student as s/he enters the learning space.
- Plan more than you think you will need for a session, but start on time and end on time.
- Provide information to students that allow them to be prepared for each session, including time, location and any necessary materials.
- Create and maintain an accurate attendance list for each class time, being sure that you see each student yourself before marking him/her present.
- Create a friendly, experiential learning environment i.e. organized, consistent, physically comfortable, appealing to the senses (sight, smell, touch, hearing, taste if possible) and engaging to the age group.
- Learning can be fun! Be enthusiastic about what you are teaching. Allow students to share their enthusiasm for learning as well.
- Get to know each student, by full name, as soon as possible.
- Take an interest in your students and learn what is important to each of them.
- Create an atmosphere of trust. Define to them what kinds of issues should be kept confidential in the context of the learning space and which ones may need to be shared with others because of their safety and well being.
- Remember that attitudes can be contagious. Be positive and proactive and so will your students.
- Be a good listener and attentive to their needs.
- Encourage critical thinking and theological reflection regarding topics of study. Allow time for students to be quiet and to think.
- Encourage students to apply what they have learned.
- Don't be afraid to learn with them.
- Foster a sense of cooperation, challenging students to be their best.
- Be flexible and adaptable when necessary.
- Treat all students equally (with the exception of special needs or circumstances) and with respect. Model ways that students can be respectful to you, other students and themselves.
- Be a good example --- the students are watching you.
- Students learn in a variety of ways. Use a variety of methods to teach including: age appropriate music and video clips, local news papers, drama, role playing, poetry, art/crafts, time for reflection, analyze social justice issues and possible solutions, and so on.
- Be aware of students with special learning needs and provide appropriate resources for their learning.
- Recognize the students desire to learn and to be holy.
- Compliment students on their efforts and encourage continued use of positive skills.
- Value their views and guide them where necessary.
- Stimulate creativity and encourage students to help you with learning tasks.
- Make every effort for all students to actively participate in the learning process.
- Recognize that successful techniques with one group of students may not apply to the next group.
- Avoid diluting doctrine and faith experiences. Meet them where they are at and help them grow from their starting point.



Let the little children  
come to me....

- Use age appropriate questions that are thought provoking and leading them to a deeper understanding of gospel values.
- Establish your classroom expectations/guidelines before the first day of class. Discuss your expectation with them on the first day, allowing them to add several guidelines that they can also take ownership of for the learning process. Also, allow them to express their own learning desires and expectations.
- Provide adequate lighting for learning space and areas that students may be approaching the building from. Also establish locations in the building that are off limits, keeping unused rooms locked whenever possible.
- Inform students of all types of safety procedures that they need to be aware of while in class and practice the executions of those procedures.
- Be sure that each student clearly understands what is expected.
- Affirm students with appropriate behavior.
- Establish clear disciplinary guidelines, including consequences for actions that do not meet the agreed upon expectations. (Be sure that your classroom policies are age appropriate and are complimentary to any parish and diocesan policies that have been established). Be firm, but kind!
- Disciplinary actions should be with the intent to correct undesirable behaviors (not necessary to punish) and to obtain a desirable level of self-control by the student.
- Encourage and nurture students who need help attaining self-control.
- Recognize the difference between assertive and aggressive behavior. Aggressive behavior should be discouraged and may require disciplinary action.
- Discipline should not be humiliating. Sarcasm is not an appropriate form of discipline. Outcomes of discipline should include the student's clear understanding of why his/her behavior was unacceptable and positive suggestions for improvement should be given to the student.
- Inform parents of disciplinary guidelines and consequences, inviting them to partner with you in creating a healthy learning environment for their child/youth, as well as for all students present.
- Be consistent and follow through with appropriate disciplinary actions.
- Remember that misbehavior can be a result of the combinations of conditions and each circumstance should be analyzed and handle appropriately.
- Remember that it is your responsibility to provide a safe environment for all students in the class.
- Ongoing/major disciplinary issues should be discussed with the child/youth's parents. (The catechetical leader and/or pastor should also be informed of major issues.)
- Remember that all disciplinary issues may not be within your scope of expertise and you may need to make necessary referrals.
- Recognize that it may become necessary to have a child removed from class for a period of time. Partner with parents and other necessary experts in working toward allowing a disruptive/aggressive child/youth to re-enter the learning process. Be sure that people involved understand additional expectations.
- It is inappropriate to use physical force as a means of discipline in the religious education and youth ministry setting. However, if physical restraint ever becomes necessary, be sure that you are properly trained for such occasions. Document the facts of the incident and report them to the proper personnel immediately.
- Physical touch as a form of positive affirmation is acceptable i.e. a hug, a pat on the back, a handshake, a high five, and so on. It is, however, necessary to establish the student's comfort level with these forms of affirmation. Positive physical affirmation should never be used if a student has made his/her feeling clear regarding the discomfort of touch.
- Adults should not be left alone with a single student in the room. This is for your protection and the child's protection. If on a rare occasion, you find yourself in a situation with a single student, be sure that the doors are left open, window blinds are up, and that you avoid physical contact with the child.
- Have confidence in your calling to be a catechist. Trust in God's plan for you and the students entrusted to your care.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Concepts in this section are an accumulation of common knowledge and classroom practices, and specific suggestions taken from the 1991 Issue of the Journal Press II Resources, Inc. and the September 2000 Issue of Religion Teacher's Journal.

# Superior Catechist Calendar

## LIGHTS, CAMERA, FAITH

### A Day at the Movies

March 3, 2005 @ Our Lady of Lourdes, Dobie  
Contact Roger Cadotte @715-234-5044

## YOUTH RALLY 2005

Saturday, April 2, 2005  
Presenter: Bob Perron  
Location: Rhinelander  
Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

## THEOLOGY DAY

Saturday, April 23, 2005 - 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Presenter: Dr. William Cahoy  
Location: WITC, Rice Lake, WI  
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

## SUMMIT (Superior Mutual Ministry Team)

May 9, 2005 @ St. Anthony de Padua, Tony  
Presenter: Bernie Evans  
Contact Sr. Marianna Ableidinger, FSPA @  
715-447-8510

## AGAPE TEC RETREAT SCHEDULE

- #185 March 4-6, 2005 @  
Rhinelander Catholic Central and  
Nativity of Our Lord, Rhinelander
- #186 April 29-May1, 2005 @  
St. Anthony de Padua, Park Falls
- #187 June 24-26, 2005 @  
St. Francis Xavier, Merrill

## AGAPE TEC RETREAT SCHEDULE

#188 July 30-Aug. 1, 2005 @  
St. Joseph and Osceola Elementary  
School, Osceola



Contact Gwen Nies @  
715-646-2418

www.agapetec.com

## SCOUT RECOGNITION DAY

May 14, 2005  
Cathedral of Christ the King  
Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

## WYD (WORLD YOUTH DAY) 2005



August 13-22, 2005  
Cologne, Germany  
Contact Chris Newkirk @  
715-234-5044

## NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference)

October 27-30, 2005  
Atlanta, GA  
Contact Chris Newkirk @ 715-234-5044

## LEADERSHIP DAYS

August 23, 2005  
August 25, 2005  
Locations: TBA  
Contact Roger Cadotte @ 715-234-5044

## Catholics at the Capital 2005

### Called to Serve the Common Good

*"Join with Wisconsin's Roman Catholic Bishops as we raise a collective voice  
for peace, justice and human dignity!"*

Monday, April 4, 2005

Monona Terrace Convention Center

Madison, Wisconsin

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$35.00 per person

**Registration Deadline: March 25, 2005**

*(Official registrations forthcoming — watch the Superior Catholic Herald.)*

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, in cooperation with Catholic Charities, Diocesan Offices of Social Concerns and Respect Life, the Catholic Health Assoc. of Wisconsin, the Diocesan Councils of Catholic Women- Province of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Council of Catholic Women and the Leadership Conferences of Women Religious, Region 7 (Wisconsin)

**For more information contact: Chris Newkirk, Office of Religious Education & Youth Ministry  
(715-234-5044 Ext. 16 or cnewkirk@catholicdos.org)**





*Diocese of Superior  
Ministry of Catechesis Certification*

# Handing On The Faith

A Weekend Catechetical Workshop

August 13 & 14, 2005

The Waters of Minocqua Resort  
Minocqua, Wisconsin

*The Department of Christian Formation of the Diocese of Superior is pleased to present a formational opportunity for catechists and Catholic school teachers. This two-day workshop offers opportunities for both those seeking Basic certification and those seeking certification beyond the Basic level.*

*Basic Track* participants will be able to earn up to 15 points toward certification – five in Scripture, five in Theology, and five in Methods. Topics include *The Roots of Our Belief: The Constitution on Divine Revelation, The Sacraments of Healing, The Sacraments of Service, How the Bible Came to Be*, and more.

Participants in the *Beyond Basic Track* will be able to add up to 15 points in Methods toward certification. Topics include *Catechetics and the Law, Dealing With Conflict, Improving Programs Through Evaluation, To Minister and To Lead*, and more.

Both tracks allow participants to attend both Saturday and Sunday, Saturday only, or Sunday only.

*Funded in part by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Committee on Home Missions*

*more information ⇨*

## Handing On The Faith Basic Level Track

|            | <i>Saturday</i>   | <i>Sunday</i>  |
|------------|---|--|
| 9:15 a.m.  | <i>The Roots of Our Belief</i><br>Fr. Dennis Mullen<br><i>or</i><br><i>The Sacraments of Healing</i><br>Fr. Gabriel Baltes, OSB   | <i>The Sacraments of Service</i><br>Deacon Tom Weiss<br><i>or</i><br><i>How the Bible Came to Be</i><br>Kate Wiskus  |
|            | SCRIPTURE   | THEOLOGY   |
|            | THEOLOGY  | SCRIPTURE  |
| 12:25 p.m. | Sessions listed above will be repeated so that all participants in this track may attend both workshops.  |  |
| 3:00 p.m.  | <b>CHOOSE ONE:</b><br><i>Planning Religion Lessons</i><br>Deacon Roger Cadotte<br><br><i>Learning Styles and Approaches to Catechesis</i><br>Joanie McKeown<br><br><i>Basic Training for Providing A Safe Environment for Children &amp; Youth</i><br>Chris Newkirk | <b>CHOOSE ONE:</b><br><i>Elementary Students: Tips &amp; Techniques For Religious Formation</i><br>Betty Swiston<br><br><i>Middle School Students: Tips &amp; Techniques For Religious Formation</i><br>Mary Piasecki<br><br><i>High School Students: Tips and Techniques For Religious Formation</i><br>Chris Newkirk<br><br><i>Strategies for Working With Special Needs Students</i><br>Evelyn Azbell & Bonnie Moquin |
|            | METHODS   | METHODS  |
|            | METHODS   | METHODS  |
|            | METHODS   | METHODS  |
|            | METHODS   | METHODS  |

## Beyond Basic Track

|            | <i>Saturday</i>  | <i>Sunday</i>  |
|------------|--|--|
| 9:15 a.m.  | <i>To Minister and To Lead</i><br>Sr. Bonnie Alho  | <i>Catechetics and the Law</i><br>David Eaton & Richard Lyons  |
|            | METHODS  | METHODS  |
| 12:25 p.m. | <i>Styles of Leadership</i><br>Ron Zaffrann  | <i>Improving Programs Through Evaluation</i><br>Deacon Roger Cadotte   |
|            | METHODS  | METHODS  |
| 3:00 p.m.  | <b>CHOOSE ONE:</b><br><i>Dealing with Conflict</i><br>Ron Zaffrann<br><br><i>Basic Training for Providing A Safe Environment for Children &amp; Youth</i><br>Chris Newkirk | <b>CHOOSE ONE:</b><br><i>Elementary Students: Tips &amp; Techniques For Religious Formation</i><br>Betty Swiston<br><br><i>Middle School Students: Tips &amp; Techniques For Religious Formation</i><br>Mary Piasecki<br><br><i>High School Students: Tips and Techniques For Religious Formation</i><br>Chris Newkirk<br><br><i>Strategies for Working With Special Needs Students</i><br>Evelyn Azbell & Bonnie Moquin |
|            | METHODS  | METHODS  |
|            | METHODS  | METHODS  |
|            | METHODS  | METHODS  |
|            | METHODS  | METHODS  |





In *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions* (statement approved by the Bishops of the United States, June 19, 1998) the bishops observe:



“Our community of faith is blessed with many gifts. Two of the most vital are our remarkable commitment to Catholic education and catechesis in all its forms and our rich tradition of Catholic social teaching. As we look to a new millennium, there is an urgent need to bring these two gifts together in a strengthened commitment to sharing our social teaching at every level of Catholic education and faith formation.”

This issue of *Superior Catechist* contains articles that highlight these social teachings:

- ✦ Our lead article, **What Is Social Justice?** by Tricia Duhaime outlines the major principles in the social gospel of our church.
- ✦ A reflection entitled **Discovering Catholic Social Teaching** by Abbie Daigle, former Bishop Hammes Center Media Specialist, on what her experiences working in Thea Bowman Women’s Center has shown her about the social mission of our faith.
- ✦ A listing of resources on Catholic social teaching found in the Bishop Hammes Media Center.

Hopefully these resources will be helpful as you strive to share the social teachings of our faith with your students.