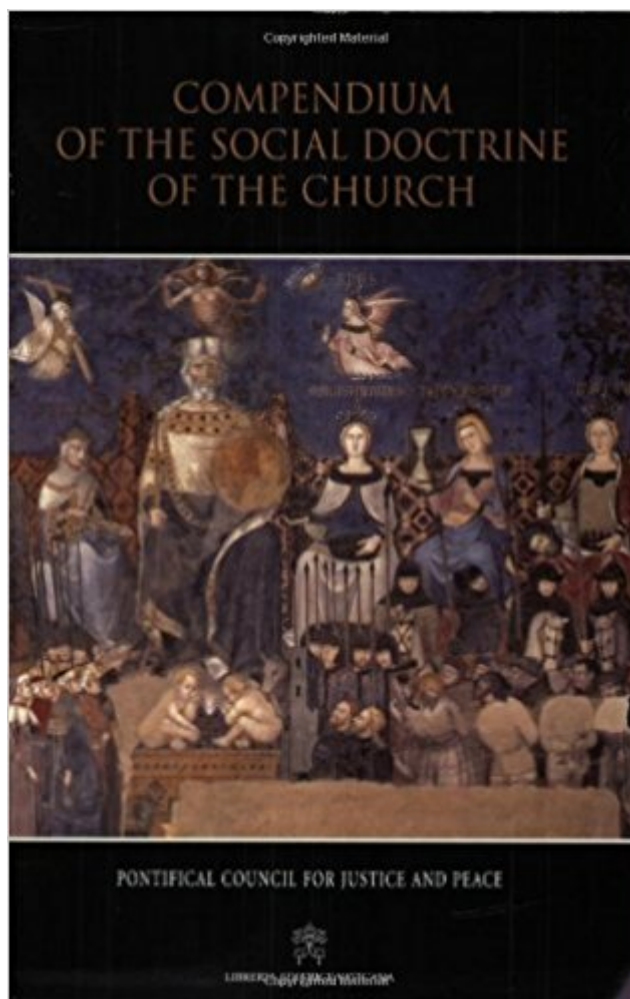


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# Compendium Of The Social Doctrine Of The Church



## Synopsis

Only available for sale in the United States. The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, a unique, unprecedented document in the history of the Church, serves as a tool to inspire and guide the faithful, who are faced with moral and pastoral challenges daily. It is divided into five sections: an introduction, three parts, and a conclusion entitled "For a Civilization of Love." The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church is a must-have resource for leaders of social ministry at the diocesan and parish level as well as those in religious education, schools, and youth and young adult ministry.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The book's 250 pages of carefully selected quotations from ancient and modern documents are wonderfully indexed by sources (25 pp.) and by vigorous topics and inviting subtopics (165 pp.). For achieving peace, there are so many connections, either in place or waiting to be made." (Rev. Philip C. Fischer, S.J. Review for Religious 20050701)"The new Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, released in March in the United States, makes it unmistakably clear that the Church proposes something much more profound --(Henry Berry Reviewer's Bookwatch 20050501)

This Compendium is a unique, unprecedented document in the history of the Church. It serves as a tool to inspire and guide the faithful who are faced with moral and pastoral challenges daily. Parts include -God's plan of love for humanity -The family, the vital cell of society -Social doctrine and ecclesial action -For a civilization of love -Index of references -Analytical index

Humanity and governments since the beginning of time continue to fail to order their affairs in manner leading to a just society. This is a complex book that provides a path that each of can take with our choices leading to a society that governments and godless intellectuals talk about, but never deliver. This doctrine is good for everyone, and vital reading for those who profess to be Catholic. The United States and so many other nations are marching into oblivion through moral relativism and a culture of death passing laws and achieving social norms that undermine the very foundations of family life and reproduction that only a just society can be built upon. If those who profess to be Catholic actually understood their faith and this doctrine, the world will become a better place.

The Compendium is an ambitious, much needed, admirable, and probably widely unknown overview of the fundamental framework of the doctrinal corpus of the Catholic Church's social doctrine, focusing on Scripture and on Church documents and proclamations in the 110 years from Rerum Novarum to the compilation of this volume. The "citations of Magisterial texts are taken from documents of differing authority ... the reader should be aware that different levels of teaching authority are involved." (para 8.) The titles of the three sections of the book - God's Plan of Love for Humanity; The Family, the Vital Cell of Society; Social Doctrine and Ecclesial Action - suggest the book's framework but they are inadequate to capture or describe the breadth of the book. The Church's social doctrine is based on the principles of the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. There is a necessary interplay and sometimes an apparent tension between these principles that the doctrine attempts to capture. The Church's social doctrine therefore addresses the right to work, human rights, the environment, forms of government, private and public property, international relations, economics, Christ, and much more. The language of the book can be stilted, and it uses terms and phrasings that have a meaning in Catholic thought that either is not frequently used in American English or is used with a different meaning. [Try this sentence: "The Magisterium finds the motivation for its opposition to a concept of the environment based on ecocentrism and on biocentrism in the fact that 'it is being proposed on the ontological and axiological difference between men and other living beings being eliminated, since the biosphere is considered a biotic unity of undifferentiated value.'" (para 463)] Sometimes it seems to present truisms, sometimes generalities, sometimes speculations, sometimes ambiguity, and, particularly in the portion on the fundamental relations of the international community where the existence of original sin seems a remote consideration, sometimes platitudes. The book sometimes

skirts issues: though it condemns usury it does not define the term. Even well informed Catholics will grapple with understanding portions of the book. It's not always easy - indeed sometimes it seems prohibitively difficult - to ascertain the level of teaching authority behind specific statements. Those looking for citation to St. Augustine's City of God, Unam Sanctam, Quas Primas, Vix Pervenit, the Council of Trent, or the Catechism of the Council of Trent will be disappointed. Aquinas, though, appears. Incongruously, the Index of References, which runs for almost 200 pages, is printed in a larger font than that in the body of the book. This is a book to study rather than a book to just read. It's an admirable, but sometimes frustrating, undertaking.

The writings of the Catholic Church continue to amaze me with their beauty and depth of knowledge. Too often we react to sound bites when it comes to Catholic social justice. This volume corrects the misunderstandings. If you wish to speak about social justice as a Catholic, this book must be on your shelf.

Good book to study doctrine. Needed it for a class.

If one is seeking a blueprint, a framework, and a synthesis on putting the Catholic faith 'into practice', 'into action', one will find these qualities in this Compendium. Each sentence carries meaning and there are no unimportant words in this Compendium. It is concise, yet treats each topic with erudite precision. It is inspirational and hopeful! This Compendium makes one ponder deeply about the Catholic faith. It absolutely challenges both the mind and heart of the Catholic religious and lay faithful and exhorts the heart and mind to nobler causes outside of oneself and exhorts us to build a civilization of love, a culture of life. This Compendium, coupled with the previously published Catechism of the Catholic Church, will, in the judgement of history, be considered two classical works, that is, masterpieces. This is a book that all Catholics, at the least, should have on their shelves.

Elegantly encapsulates the social teachings of the Catholic Church, which are sorely needed in modern times.

The compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church is a must have for any good soul that wants to promote a change in the world, guided by the principles of subsidiarity, solidarity, justice, peace, and most importantly: Love.

This is a modern day prescription for living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our culture and society and in our daily lives. While written by theologians and leaders of the Catholic Church, the teachings provide a solid moral basis for living a life of social justice for men and women of every creed. Its emphasis is on the dignity of the human person, the importance of work, the benefits and dangers of capitalism, as well as of socialism. It addresses the accumulation of wealth and speaks of it as a gift which must be shared and not hoarded or used to satisfy the never-ending thirst for personal pleasure and the accumulation of "things." I used this volume as a basis for a recent homily and offered to order the book for any church-goers that would like to read it themselves. I ended up ordering over 60 copies from . If you question the justification of war, our response to terrorism, the role of government in feeding the hungry and caring for the sick... give this book a thorough reading.

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