

Catholic and Marianist Guiding Principles

The Catholic and Marianist Philosophy of Education is shaped by the insights of the Catholic intellectual tradition that ground our convictions that faith and reason illumine one another and that all persons are created in the image of God. The Marianist tradition of education includes the whole person – spirit, mind and body – connecting liberal to professional education through integrating learning and living in community. These traditions form distinctive graduates who grow in their faith, pursue lifelong learning and achieve professional success. Educated for adaptation and change, our graduates are particularly well prepared for leadership and service in the communities in which they live and work. We emphasize practical reasoning, moral behavior and thoughtful reflection within a diverse and inclusive community committed to the vocation of learning.

Catholic Social Teaching

Six Practical Principles for Business

The principles of respect for human dignity and pursuit of the common good are the foundations of the Church's social teaching. Joined with the six practical principles of business, they can offer more specific guidance on the three broad business objectives.

Meeting the Needs of the World through the Creation and Development of Goods and Services

1. Businesses contribute to the common good by producing goods that are truly good and services that truly serve.
2. Businesses maintain solidarity with the poor by being alert for opportunities to serve deprived and underserved populations and people in need.

Organizing Good and Productive Work

3. Businesses make a contribution to the community by fostering the special dignity of human work.
4. Businesses that embrace subsidiarity provide opportunities for employees to exercise their gifts as they contribute to the mission of the organization.

Creating Sustainable Wealth and Distributing it Justly

5. Businesses model stewardship of the resources—whether capital, human, or environmental—under their control.
6. Businesses are just in the allocation of benefits to all stakeholders: employees, customers, investors, suppliers, and the community

Catholic Social Teaching put differently:

Human Dignity: Made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), every man, woman and child possesses the dignity of personhood. A person is not something, but someone,¹¹ as Pope Francis eloquently expresses with his embrace of those usually spurned: the poor, sick, disfigured and homeless.

Common Good: This principle asserts that our plans and efforts must take into account the effect on everyone now and future generations too, so groups and individuals can "reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily."¹² Are not the lost coin, the lost sheep, the prodigal son, and all case-studies in the common good? (Luke 15).

Solidarity: Here are three illustrations of solidarity.¹³ In the Book of Ruth, Ruth ignores social conventions to stay in solidarity with her mother-in-law Naomi. In the Gospel of Luke, the Good Samaritan ranks his neighbor's welfare as equal in importance to his own (Luke 10:29-37). In his visit to Lampedusa, Pope Francis challenges everyone to welcome migrants as enjoying the full range of human rights.

Subsidiarity: Subsidiarity calls for respect (and for support when needed) by larger and more distant entities, for the initiative, freedom and responsibility of the smaller, more local entities. It applies to respect for individuals and families by the state; for local and regional units by headquarters; for workers by bosses. In the Church, like Blessed John XXIII before him, Pope Francis is working to lessen the centralization in the Roman Curia and strengthen the role of the local Church.

Stewardship: Men and women are the cultivators and custodians of the goods of creation (Gen 1:26-27). Business leaders should see themselves as co-creators with God, and as His grateful, humble and respectful stewards in nurturing and distributing His gifts to all people.