



## **Catholic Social Responsibility**

### **Guiding Principles**

As Catholic school educators in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, participating in the evangelizing mission of the Church, we are committed to the following **Guiding Principles** in our efforts to teach all students to understand their responsibility to act as disciples of Jesus Christ, especially within the context of contemporary social challenges.

- ***Catholic Social Teachings*** provide the foundation for the instruction and formation of our Catholic school communities regarding all social issues.

Catholic Social Teachings, central to our identity as Catholic educators and reflective of Gospel values, will be taught at every grade level in our Catholic schools in developmentally appropriate ways.

#### **Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

The Catholic Church proclaims that all human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.

#### **Call to Family, Community, and Participation**

Persons are sacred but also social. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened.

#### **Rights and Responsibilities**

Every person has a fundamental right to life and to those things required for human dignity. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities to one another, to our families, and to society at large.

#### **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

Catholic tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

#### **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers**

Work is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, the basic rights of workers must be respected.

### **Solidarity**

We are one human family, brothers and sisters created in the image of God, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences may be. The Gospel calls us to be people of love and peace.

### **Care for God's Creation**

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation in all its forms.

- *Catholic schools participate directly in the **evangelizing mission of the Church** and, as such, are called to “make disciples of all.”*

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will welcome and be accessible to students of all backgrounds, abilities, and academic goals.

- *As central to their mission, Catholic schools will educate the whole student by effectively **integrating faith, culture, and life.***

Students will be formed as authentic disciples of Jesus Christ, known by the ways in which they put their faith into action. With a Catholic worldview developed in all areas of school programming, they will be given the tools to make good decisions which will benefit themselves and others in this world, with eyes also fixed on the world to come. They will learn to not simply accept culture as it is, or reject it out of hand, but rather to transform it with faith-filled attitudes and actions.

- *Catholic schools will teach and model the essence of **Catholic social action**: love for God and neighbor.*

Catholic schools are communities based on cooperation between educators, families, bishops, and the larger Church. It is always within community that we grow. At the heart of the Catholic school community are the profound interactions between educators and their students which teach them, by word and example, to be effective communicators, compassionate problem-solvers, responsible citizens, reflective moral decision-makers, and disciples known by their ability to sacrifice, forgive, and serve. All instruction and formation toward these goals will be supported by the Gospel, the teachings of the Church, and active participation in the

sacraments and other opportunities for prayer.

- ***Respect for all people*** will be a fundamental expectation for every member of our Catholic school communities.

Catholic school students, teachers, leaders, staff, and parents will be committed to the belief that every human being, from conception until natural death, is created in the image of God, redeemed by Jesus Christ, and intrinsically worthy of respect. All words, actions, teachings, and decisions in our Catholic school communities will be consistent with this fundamental expectation of respect.