

Chapter 7
The Christ of the Breadlines
Fritz Eichenberg
Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

In this assignment, students will connect the action of Fritz Eichenberg with seven principles of Catholic social teaching, researching and summarizing main Church documents associated with these principles and offering their own opinion on which principles resonates with them the most and why.

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Fritz Eichenberg, who participated with Dorothy Day in the Catholic Worker Movement, was a champion of working for social justice. Though he never became a Catholic, Eichenberg viewed the practice of religion and the call to help their neighbor as the same thing; aiding those in need was the way to live the Gospel. Codified in modern teachings beginning in the nineteenth century with the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (On Capital and Labor) by Pope Leo XIII and in several teachings since, the Church adheres to what has become known as seven principles of Catholic social teaching. Research each of these principles and write the name, year, and author of a document associated with it. Then write a two-sentence summary of its main teaching

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Document:

Year:

Author(s):

Summary:

2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation

Document:

Year:

Author(s):

Summary:

3. Right and Responsibilities

Document:

Year:

Author(s):

Summary:

4. Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Document:

Year:

Author(s):

Summary:

5. The Dignity and Rights of Workers

Document:

Year:

Author(s):

Summary:

6. Solidarity

Document:

Year:

Author(s):

Summary:

7. Care for God's Creation

Document:

Year:

Author(s):

Summary:

Which of these principles do you see as being most needed in our world today? Explain your reasoning in two or three sentences.