

# Catholic Social Teaching

One of the main aims of the Justice and Peace Commission is to promote the Church's social teaching. Very few Catholics are aware of this wealth of teaching which the Church offers them and others of goodwill.

There are diverse reasons as to why Catholics are not familiar with the Church's social teaching. The documents are long and the language academic. They are not often preached about from the pulpit or taught in the catechism class. And, probably most annoyingly, where does the ordinary Catholic get hold of this teaching?

It was with this in mind that the Justice and Peace Commission decided to publish a calendar with a few well chosen quotations from the social teaching of the Church. We hope these quotes will lead to further discussion, a taste for a deeper knowledge of the church's social teaching, and, of course, practical action. Of all that we could say here about the Church's social teaching, we can do no better than quote Pope John XXIII from his encyclical 'Mater et Magistra', his letter to the universal Church entitled 'Mother and Teacher' (1961).

*'The Church has formulated, particularly over the past hundred years, and through the efforts of a very well-informed body of priests and laymen, a social doctrine which points out with clarity the sure way to social reconstruction. The principles she gives are of universal application, for they take human nature into account, and the varying conditions in which man's life is lived. They also take into account the principle characteristics of contemporary society, and are thus acceptable to all.'* (220)

*'But today, more than ever, it is essential that this doctrine be known, assimilated, and put into effect in the form and manner that the different situations allow and demand. It is a difficult task indeed, yet a most noble one. To the performance of it we call, not only our own sons and brothers scattered throughout the world, but also men of goodwill everywhere.'* (221)

*'It is therefore our urgent desire that this doctrine be studied more and more. First of all it should be taught as part of the daily curriculum in Catholic schools of every kind, particularly seminaries, although we are not unaware that in some of these latter institutions, this has been done for a long time now and in an outstanding way. We would also like to see it added to the religious instruction programmes of parishes and of associations of the lay apostolate. It must be spread by every modern means at our disposal: daily newspapers, periodicals, popular and scientific publications, radio and television.'* (223)

*'Our beloved sons, the laity, can do much to help this diffusion of Catholic social doctrine by studying it themselves and putting it into practice and by zealously striving to make others understand it.'* (224)

*'It is not enough merely to formulate a social doctrine. It must be translated into reality. And this is particularly true of the Church's social doctrine, the light of which is truth, justice its objective and love its driving force.'* (225)

We trust that readers will appreciate that Pope John was writing at a time when sexist language was the order of the day.

The social teaching calendar is much more than an informative liturgical calendar. Our intention was that it be used as a teaching aid in the parish, classroom or catechism class. A most suitable place to hang it would be the church porch where parishioners would be greeted with a new quotation every fortnight. This teaching aid could be used for many years to come. All that needs to be done is to cut off the dates at the bottom of each page.

May the words of Archbishop Denis Hurley inspire us to spread the social teaching: 'To be a Christian is to be concerned with Jesus about suffering. Most suffering is caused by social injustice and social neglect. For a Catholic, therefore, it is essential to know the social teaching of the Church and to do one's bit towards changing the situation.'

Lastly, it would be appropriate to thank all those in the Johannesburg Justice and Peace Commission who helped to produce this wonderful calendar. A special thanks to Joan Glennie, Brian Leong, Lyn Tehini, Sr Bridget Kelly OP, Sr Christopher Harington OP, Roy King, Jabu Mofomo, Fr Emil Blaser OP and, of course, CAFOD who have made this project possible.

Steve Sadie  
October 1988





'Peace' in different languages on a wall mural that used to hang in Khotso House, Johannesburg

## PEACE

**Peace is not merely the absence of war; nor can it be reduced solely to the maintenance of a balance of power between enemies; nor is it brought about by dictatorship. Instead, it is rightly and appropriately called an enterprise of justice (Is. 32:7). Peace results from that order structured into human society by its divine founder, and actualized by people as they thirst after even greater justice.**

*Gaudium et Spes, 78*

JAN

SUN  
1

Solemnity of  
Mary Mother  
of God

MON  
2

Ss Basil the  
Great and  
Gregory  
Nazianzen

TUE  
3

WED  
4

THU  
5

FRI  
6

SAT  
7

St Raymond  
of Penyafort

SUN  
8

Solemnity of  
The Epiphany

MON  
9

TUE  
10

WED  
11

THU  
12

FRI  
13

St Mary

SAT  
14

SUN  
15

Baptism of  
the Lord





Pope John XXIII

## HUMAN DIGNITY

**Individual human beings are the foundation, the cause and the end of every social institution. On this basic principle which guarantees the sacred dignity of the individual, the Church constructs her social teachings.**

*Mater et Magistra, 219, 220*

JAN

MON  
16

TUE  
17

St. Anthony  
Abbot

WED  
18

THU  
19

FRI  
20

St. Fabian,  
St. Sebastian  
Martyrs

SAT  
21

St. Agnes  
Vrgn. Martyr

SUN  
22

2nd Sunday  
of the Year

MON  
23

TUE  
24

St. Francis  
de Sales

WED  
25

Conversion of  
St. Paul

THU  
26

Ss. Timothy  
and Titus

FRI  
27

St. Angela  
Merici, V

SAT  
28

St. Thomas  
Aquinas

SUN  
29

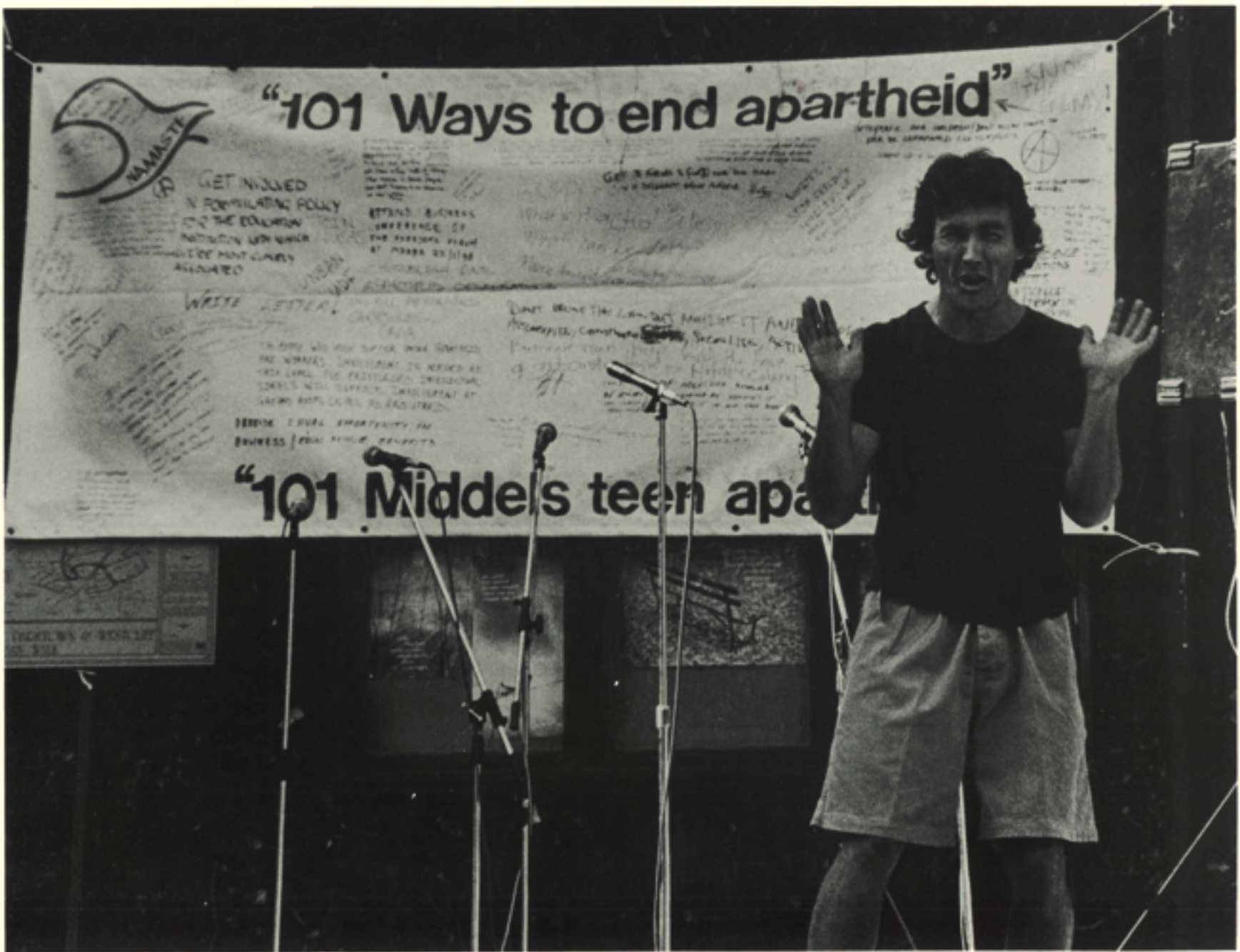
3rd Sunday  
of the year

MON  
30

TUE  
31

St. John Bosco,  
Priest





Actor, Andrew Buckland, at the Five Freedoms Forum Open Day.

## JUSTICE

**Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or, in other words, of the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation.**

Justice in the World, 6

<b>FEB</b>	<b>WED 1</b>	<b>THU 2</b> The Presentation of the Lord, Feast	<b>FRI 3</b> St Blaise Bp, M St Ansgar, Bp	<b>SAT 4</b>	<b>SUN 5</b> 4th Sunday of the year	<b>MON 6</b> St Paul Mkt and his Companions Martyrs	<b>TUE 7</b>	<b>WED 8</b> Ash Wednesday	<b>THU 9</b>	<b>FRI 10</b> St Scholastica, Virgin	<b>SAT 11</b> Our Lady of Lourdes	<b>SUN 12</b> 1st Sunday of Lent	<b>MON 13</b>	<b>TYE 14</b> Ss Cyril and Methodus	<b>WED 15</b>
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Good Friday service in Durban, 1 April 1988

# LAITY

**Hence, the active presence of the laity in the temporal realities takes on all its importance. One cannot, however, neglect or forget the other dimension: the laity can also feel themselves called, or be called, to work with their pastors in the service of the ecclesial community, for its growth and life, by exercising a great variety of ministries according to the grace and charisms which the Lord is pleased to give them.**

*Evangelii Nuntiandi, 73*

FEB

THU  
16

FRI  
17

Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

SAT  
18

SUN  
19

2nd Sunday of Lent

MON  
20

TUE  
21

The See of St Peter the Apostle, Feast

WED  
22

St Peter Damian

THU  
23

St Polycarp Bishop, Martyr

FRI  
24

SAT  
25

SUN  
26

3rd Sunday of Lent

MON  
27

TUE  
28





Pupils at McAuley House Convent, Johannesburg

## HOPE

Yet there is a hope. It is a hope that looks beyond group identities and group interests apartheid has forced us into. It is a hope that looks beyond that to something that is more precious to us than anything else: being one with each other, as Jesus is one with his Father.

Christian Hope in the Current Crisis,  
SACBC 1986

MAR

WED  
1

THU  
2

FRI  
3

SAT  
4  
St Casimir

SUN  
5  
4th Sunday of Lent

MON  
6

TUE  
7  
Ss Perpetua and Felicity Martyrs

WED  
8  
St John of God

THU  
9  
St Francis of Rome

FRI  
10

SAT  
11

SUN  
12  
5th Sunday of Lent  
Desires Day

MON  
13

TUE  
14

WED  
15





Natal Parks Board sign

## DISCRIMINATION

Nevertheless, with respect to the fundamental rights of the person, every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, colour, social condition, language or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent.

*Gaudium et Spes, 29*





Musicians at the Free People's Concert, February 1987

## TRUTH AND LOVE

**The social order requires constant improvement. It must be founded on truth, built on justice and animated by love; in freedom it should grow every day towards a more humane balance. An improvement in attitudes and numerous changes in society will have to take place if these objectives are to be gained.**

*Gaudium et Spes, 26.2*

APR

SAT  
1

SUN  
2

2nd Sunday  
of Easter

MON  
3

The  
Annunciation

TUE  
4

St Isidore, Bp  
Doct.

WED  
5

St Vincent  
Ferrer

THU  
6

FRI  
7

St John Baptist  
de la Salle

SAT  
8

SUN  
9

3rd Sunday  
of Easter

MON  
10

TUE  
11

St Simeon,  
Martyr

WED  
12

THU  
13

St Martin I  
Pope, M

FRI  
14

SAT  
15





Crossroads squatter camp

# GOODS OF THE WORLD

**God intended the earth  
with everything  
contained in it for the  
use of all human  
beings and all peoples.**

*Gaudium et Spes, 69*

APR

SUN  
**16**

4th Sunday  
of Easter

MON  
**17**

TUE  
**18**

WED  
**19**

THU  
**20**

FRI  
**21**

St Anselm  
Bp. Doct.

SAT  
**22**

SUN  
**23**

5th Sunday  
of Easter

MON  
**24**

St Felicitas of  
Sermoringen,  
Martyr

TUE  
**25**

St Mark  
Evangelist,  
Feast

WED  
**26**

THU  
**27**

FRI  
**28**

St Peter Chanel  
priest, Martyr

SAT  
**29**

St Catherine  
of Siena

SUN  
**30**

6th Sunday  
of Easter





Elijah Barayi re-elected as COSATU president in Johannesburg, July 1987

# SOLIDARITY

**There is a need for ever new movements of solidarity of the workers and with the workers. This solidarity must be present whenever it is called for by the social degrading of the subject of work, by exploitation of the workers and by growing areas of poverty and even hunger. The Church is firmly committed to this cause for she considers it her mission, her service, a proof of her fidelity to Christ, so that she can truly be the 'Church of the Poor'.**

*Laborem Exercens, 8.5*

MAY

MON  
1

St Joseph  
the worker

TUE  
2

St Athanasius

WED  
3

Ss Philip and  
James, App.  
Feast

THU  
4

Ascension of  
our Lord

FRI  
5

SAT  
6

SUN  
7

7th Sunday  
of Easter

MON  
8

TUE  
9

WED  
10

THU  
11

FRI  
12

SAT  
13

Ss Nereus and  
Achilleus, Mm  
S Pancras, M

SUN  
14

Pentecost

MON  
15





Pope Paul VI

## EVANGELIZATION

**As the kernel and centre of his good news, Christ proclaims salvation, this great gift of God which is liberation from everything that oppresses people but which is above all liberation from sin and the evil one, in the joy of knowing God and being known by him, of seeing him, and of being given over to him.**

*Evangelii Nuntiandi, 9*

MAY

TUE  
16

WED  
17

THU  
18

St John I  
Pope, Martyr

FRI  
19

SAT  
20

St Bernardine  
of Siena

SUN  
21

Holy Trinity

MON  
22

TUE  
23

WED  
24

THU  
25

St Bede,  
Gregory,  
Mary Magdalen

FRI  
26

St Philip Neri

SAT  
27

St Augustine  
of Canterbury

SUN  
28

Corpus Christi

MON  
29

TUE  
30

WED  
31

Republic Day





The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference 1982

# PROCLAIM JUSTICE

The Church has received from Christ the mission of preaching the gospel message, which contains a call to people to turn away from sin to the love of the Father, universal brotherhood and a consequent demand for justice in the world. This is the reason why the Church has a right, indeed the duty, to proclaim justice on the social, national and international level, and to denounce instances of injustice, when the fundamental right of people and their very salvation demand it.

Justice in the World, 36

JUN

THU  
1

St Justin  
Martyr

FRI  
2

Sacred Heart

SAT  
3

St Charles  
Lwanga and his  
21 Companions  
Mm

SUN  
4

9th Sunday  
of the year

MON  
5

St Boniface  
Bp. Martyr

TUE  
6

St Norbert

WED  
7

THU  
8

FRI  
9

St Ephraem  
Deacon

SAT  
10

SUN  
11

10th Sunday  
of the year

MON  
12

TUE  
13

St Anthony  
of Padua

WED  
14

THU  
15





Catholic youth at a picnic, Zoo Lake in Johannesburg

# YOUTH

Their increasing number and growing presence in society and likewise the problems assailing them should awaken in everyone the desire to offer them with zeal and intelligence the gospel ideal as something to be known and lived. And on the other hand, young people who are well trained in faith and prayer must become more and more the apostles of youth. The Church counts greatly on their contribution, and we ourself have often manifested our full confidence in them.

Evangelii Nuntiandi, 72





The Bishops' ad limina visit, 27 November 1987

## POPE SUPPORTS BISHOPS

**Year in, year out, you have stood with your people in their needs, and at the same time you have withstood much unjust criticism in transmitting to them the uplifting message of the gospel. In statements that have spanned decades you have insisted on justice and the need for the true commandment of love, and invited your people to prayer and to universal fraternal solidarity. In particular, you have raised your voices on human rights, the fundamental equality of all persons, the defence of the oppressed, and the concrete exigencies of justice throughout your region.**

Pope John Paul II's address to SACBC

<b>JUL</b>	<b>SAT</b> <b>1</b>	<b>SUN</b> <b>2</b> <small>13th Sunday of the year</small>	<b>MON</b> <b>3</b> <small>St Thomas Apostle Feast</small>	<b>TUE</b> <b>4</b> <small>St Elizabeth of Portugal</small>	<b>WED</b> <b>5</b> <small>St Antony Mary Zaccaria</small>	<b>THU</b> <b>6</b> <small>St Maria Goretti Virgin, Martyr</small>	<b>FRI</b> <b>7</b>	<b>SAT</b> <b>8</b>	<b>SUN</b> <b>9</b> <small>14th Sunday of the year</small>	<b>MON</b> <b>10</b>	<b>TUE</b> <b>11</b> <small>St Benedict Abbot</small>	<b>WED</b> <b>12</b>	<b>THU</b> <b>13</b> <small>St Henry</small>	<b>FRI</b> <b>14</b> <small>St Camillus of Lellis</small>	<b>SAT</b> <b>15</b> <small>St Bonaventure</small>
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The National Union of Mineworkers on strike, August 1987

## LIBERATION

**The Church has the duty to proclaim the liberation of millions of human beings, many of whom are her own children — the duty of assisting the birth of this liberation, of giving witness to it, of ensuring that it is complete.**

Evangelii Nuntiandi, 30

JUL

SUN  
16

15th Sunday of the year

MON  
17

TUE  
18

WED  
19

THU  
20

FRI  
21

St. Laurence of Brindisi

SAT  
22

St. Mary Magdalen

SUN  
23

16th Sunday of the year

MON  
24

TUE  
25

St. James Apostle Feast

WED  
26

St. Joachim and St. Anne

THU  
27

FRI  
28

SAT  
29

St. Martha

SUN  
30

17th Sunday of the year

MON  
31

St. Ignace Loyola





The Church in Brazil

## OPTION FOR THE POOR

**We affirm the need for conversion on the part of the whole Church to a preferential option for the poor, an option aimed at their integral liberation.**

**The vast majority of our fellow humans continue to live in a situation of poverty and even wretchedness that has grown more acute.**

Puebla, 1134





St Paul the Apostle Parish, Eden Park

## WOMEN

**Women are gaining an increasing awareness of their natural dignity. Far from being content with a purely passive role or allowing themselves to be regarded as a kind of instrument, they are demanding both in domestic life and in public life the rights and duties which belong to them as human persons.**

*Pacem in Terris, 41*

**AUG**

**WED  
16**

St Stephen of Hungary

**THU  
17**

**FRI  
18**

**SAT  
19**

St John Eudes

**SUN  
20**

Assumption of Our Lady

**MON  
21**

**TUE  
22**

The Queenship of Mary

**WED  
23**

St Rose of Lima, Virgin

**THU  
24**

St Bartholomew Apostle, Feast

**FRI  
25**

St Louis St Joseph of Calasanz

**SAT  
26**

**SUN  
27**

27th Sunday of the year

**MON  
28**

St Augustine

**TUE  
29**

Beheading of St John Baptist

**WED  
30**

**THU  
31**





Archbishop Naidoo, Archbishop Cassidy, Cardinal McCann, Archbishop Hurley, Archbishop Buthelezi and Archbishop Daniel

## APARTHEID

To all white South Africans we direct an earnest plea to consider carefully what apartheid means: its evil and anti-christian character, the injustice that flows from it, the resentment and bitterness it arouses, the harvest of disaster that it must produce in the country we all love so much.

Statement on Apartheid, 1957, SACBC

SEP	FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3 <small>22nd Sunday of the year</small>	MON 4	TUE 5	WED 6	THU 7	FRI 8 <small>The Birth of Mary Feast</small>	SAT 9 <small>St Peter Claver</small>	SUN 10 <small>23rd Sunday of the year</small>	MON 11	TUE 12	WED 13 <small>St John Chrysostrm</small>	THU 14 <small>The exaltation of the Cross, Feast</small>	FRI 15 <small>Our Lady of Sorrows</small>
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The Bishops visit Sebokeng, 1985

## ON THE SIDE OF THE OPPRESSED

People starved of their freedom, deprived of their just rights and humiliated in their personal and corporate dignity will not rest until a proper balance of justice is achieved.

We affirm that in this we are on the side of the oppressed.

Statement on the Current Situation, 1977,  
SACBC

SEP	SAT 16 <small>Ss Cornelius and Cyprian</small>	SUN 17 <small>24th Sunday of the year</small>	MON 18	TUE 19 <small>St Januarius</small>	WED 20 <small>St Andrew Kim, Paul Chong, Hasang and Companions</small>	THU 21	FRI 22	SAT 23	SUN 24 <small>25th Sunday of the year</small>	MON 25	TUE 26 <small>Ss Cosmas and Damian</small>	WED 27 <small>St Vincent de Paul</small>	THU 28 <small>St Wenceslaus</small>	FRI 29 <small>Ss Michael, Gabriel, Raphael</small>	SAT 30 <small>St Jerome Independence day (Botswana)</small>
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Bread for the hungry

# HUNGER

**People are obliged to come to the relief of the poor, and do so not merely out of their superfluous goods. If a person is in extreme need, he has the right to procure from the riches of others what is necessary for himself. Since there are now many people in this world afflicted with hunger, this sacred Council urges all, both individuals and governments, to remember the saying of the fathers: 'Feed the person dying of hunger, because if you have not fed him, you have killed him.'**

*Gaudium et Spes, 69*

OCT

SUN  
**1**

St Teresa of  
the Child Jesus  
Solemnity

MON  
**2**

The Guardian  
Angels

TUE  
**3**

WED  
**4**

St Francis  
of Assisi  
Independence  
day (1997/98)

THU  
**5**

FRI  
**6**

St Bruno

SAT  
**7**

Our Lady of  
the Rosary

SUN  
**8**

27th Sunday  
of the year

MON  
**9**

St Denis and  
Companions,  
St John

TUE  
**10**

Kruger Day

WED  
**11**

THU  
**12**

FRI  
**13**

SAT  
**14**

St Callistus  
Pope, Martyr

SUN  
**15**

28th Sunday  
of the year





P W Botha at the N P Transvaal Congress, 1982

# GOVERNMENT

**Every civil authority must strive to promote the common good in the interest of all, without favouring any individual citizen or category of citizen.**

*Pacem in Terris, 56*

OCT	MON <b>16</b> <small>St Hedwig, St Margaret Mary Abcouque</small>	TUE <b>17</b> <small>St Ignatius of Antioch</small>	WED <b>18</b> <small>St Luke Evangelist Feast</small>	THU <b>19</b> <small>Ss John de Brebaut, and Isaac Jogues and compa-</small>	FRI <b>20</b>	SAT <b>21</b>	SUN <b>22</b> <small>29th Sunday of the year</small>	MON <b>23</b> <small>St John of Capestrano</small>	TUE <b>24</b> <small>St Anthony Mary Clare</small>	WED <b>25</b>	THU <b>26</b>	FRI <b>27</b>	SAT <b>28</b> <small>Ss Simon and Jude Apostles, Feast</small>	SUN <b>29</b> <small>30th Sunday of the year</small>	MON <b>30</b>	TUE <b>31</b>
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Fr. Emil Blaser OP meets the Holy Father in Lesotho, September 1988

## DIFFICULTIES

**Anyone wishing to renounce the difficult yet noble task of improving the lot of people in their totality with the excuse that the struggle is difficult and that constant effort is required or simply because of the experience of defeat and the need to begin again, that person would be betraying the will of God the Creator.**

*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, 30*

NOV

WED  
**1**

All Saints

THU  
**2**

Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed

FRI  
**3**

St Martin De Porres

SAT  
**4**

St Charles Borromeo

SUN  
**5**

31st Sunday of the year

MON  
**6**

TUE  
**7**

WED  
**8**

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Feast

THU  
**9**

FRI  
**10**

St Leo the Great

SAT  
**11**

St Martin of Tours

SUN  
**12**

32nd Sunday of the year

MON  
**13**

TUE  
**14**

WED  
**15**

St Albert the Great





Workers at the Dunlop factory, 1987

# JUST WAGE

**Doubtless before deciding whether wages are fair, many things have to be considered; but wealthy owners and all masters of labour should be mindful of this — that to exercise pressure upon the indigent and the destitute for the sake of gain, and to gather one's profit out of the need of another, is condemned by all laws, human and divine. To defraud anyone of wages that are his due is a crime which cries to the avenging anger of heaven.**

*Rerum Novarum, 17*

NOV

THU  
16

St Margaret of  
Scotland  
& Gertrude

FRI  
17

St Elisabeth  
of Hungary

SAT  
18

Basilicas of  
Sts Peter &  
Paul

SUN  
19

33rd Sunday  
of the year

MON  
20

TUE  
21

Presentation  
of Our Lady

WED  
22

St Decia

THU  
23

St Clement  
St Columbanus

FRI  
24

SAT  
25

SUN  
26

Christ the King

MON  
27

TUE  
28

WED  
29

THU  
30

St Andrew  
Apostle Feast





The Young Christian Students is a movement that uses the 'see, judge and act' method

# SEE, JUDGE, ACT

The teachings in social matters for the most part are put into effect in the following stages: first, the actual situation is examined; then the situation is evaluated carefully in relation to these teachings; then only is it decided what can and should be done in order that the traditional norms may be adapted to circumstances of time and place.

These are the three stages that are usually expressed in the three terms: **see, judge, act.**

*Mater et Magistra, 236*

DEC	FRI 1	SAT 2	SUN 3 <small>1st Sunday of Advent (Year A)</small>	MON 4 <small>St Francis Xavier Solemnity</small>	TUE 5	WED 6 <small>St Nicholas</small>	THU 7 <small>St Ambrose</small>	FRI 8 <small>Immaculate Conception</small>	SAT 9	SUN 10 <small>2nd Sunday of Advent</small>	MON 11 <small>St Damasus</small>	TUE 12 <small>St Jane Frances de Chantal</small>	WED 13 <small>St Lucy</small>	THU 14 <small>St John of the Cross</small>	FRI 15
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Schoolgirls outside a village school in Kwelerha, February 1986

## JOYS AND HOPES

The joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.

Gaudium et Spes, 1

DEC

SAT  
16

Day of the Vow

SUN  
17

3rd Sunday of Advent

MON  
18

TUE  
19

WED  
20

THU  
21

St Peter  
Caneias

FRI  
22

SAT  
23

St John  
of Karty

SUN  
24

4th Sunday  
of Advent

MON  
25

Christmas Day

TUE  
26

St Stephen  
Martyr, Feast  
Day of Goodwill

WED  
27

St John  
Evangelist,  
Feast

THU  
28

The Holy  
Innocents  
Martyrs, Feast

FRI  
29

St Thomas  
Becket

SAT  
30

SUN  
31

The Holy  
Family



## Other Quotes

### Justice in the Church

While the Church is bound to give witness to justice, she recognises that anyone who ventures to speak to people about justice must first be just in their eyes. Hence we must undertake an examination of the modes of acting and of the possessions and life-style found within the Church herself.

Finally the members of the Church should have some share in the drawing up of decisions, for instance with regard to the setting up of councils at all levels.

(Justice in the World, 40,46)

### Discrimination

Among the victims of situations of injustice — unfortunately no new phenomenon — must be placed those who are discriminated against, in law or in fact, on account of their race, origin, colour, culture, sex, or religion. Racial discrimination possesses at the moment a character of very great relevance by reason of the tension which it stirs up both within certain countries and on the international level. Men rightly consider unjustifiable and reject as inadmissible, the tendency to maintain or introduce legislation or behaviour systematically inspired by racist prejudice. The members of mankind share the same basic rights and duties, as well as the same supernatural destiny. Within a country which belongs to each one, all should be equal before the law, find equal admittance to economic, cultural, civil and social life and benefit from a fair sharing of the nation's riches.

(Octagesimo Adveniens, 16)

### Action

Let each one examine himself, to see what he has done up to now, and what he ought to do. It is not enough to recall principles, state intentions, point to crying injustices and utter prophetic denunciations; these words will lack real weight unless they are accompanied for each individual by a livelier awareness of personal responsibility, and by effective action.

(Octagesimo Adveniens, 48.1)

### Liberation Theology

To help the faith of the poor to express itself clearly and to be translated into life, through a profound meditation on the plan of salvation as it unfolds itself in the Virgin of the Magnificat — this is a noble ecclesial task which awaits the theologian.

Thus a theology of freedom and liberation which faithfully echoes Mary's Magnificat preserved in the Church's memory is something needed by the times in which we are living.

(Christian Freedom and Liberation, 98)

### Democratic Government

Other nations need to reform certain unjust structures, and in particular their political institutions, in order to replace corrupt, dictatorial and authoritarian forms of government by democratic and participatory ones. This is a process which we hope will spread and grow stronger. For the 'health' of a political community — as expressed in the free and responsible participation of all citizens in public affairs, in the rule of law and in respect for and promotion of human rights — is the necessary condition and sure guarantee of the development of 'the whole individual and of all people'.

(Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, 44)

### Liturgy

The liturgy, which we preside over and which is the heart of the Church's life, can greatly serve education for justice. For it is a thanksgiving to the Father in Christ, which through its communitarian form places before our eyes the bonds of our brotherhood and again and again reminds us of the Church's mission. The Eucharist forms the community and places it in the service of the people.

(Justice in the World, 58)

### Signs of the Times

The Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel.

(Gaudium et Spes, 4)

### Liberation

Thus the quest for freedom and the aspiration to liberation, which are among the principal signs of the times in the modern world, have their first source in the Christian heritage.

(Christian Liberation and Freedom, 5)

### Obeying the Government

Government authority therefore, is a postulate of the moral order and derives from God. Consequently, laws and decrees passed in contravention of the moral order, and hence of the divine will, can have no binding force in conscience, since 'it is right to obey God rather than men'. Indeed the passing of such laws undermines the very nature of authority and results in shameful abuse.

(Pacem in Terris, 51)

### The Family

This is still the first school of justice. By the Creator's will it is the basic cell of society within which the young take their first steps in the exercise of social justice, solidarity and fraternity. Nothing can take the place of this natural environment where so many young Africans have learned the rules of life in society, respect for other people and social responsibility.

(Justice and Evangelization in Africa, 21)

SECAM 1981

### List of documents

- 1891 Rerum Novarum — Leo XIII
- 1931 Quadragesimo Anno — Pius XI
- 1961 Mater et Magistra — John XXIII
- 1963 Pacem in Terris — John XXIII
- 1965 Gaudium et Spes — Second Vatican Council
- 1967 Populorum Progressio — Paul VI
- 1968 Medellin — CELAM
- 1971 Octagesima Adveniens — Paul VI
- 1971 Justice in the World — Synod of Bishops
- 1975 Evangelii Nuntiandi — Paul VI
- 1979 Redemptor Hominis — John Paul II
- 1979 Puebla — CELAM
- 1980 Dives in Misericordia — John Paul II
- 1981 Laborem Exercens — John Paul II
- 1981 Justice and Evangelization in Africa — SECAM
- 1986 Christian Freedom and Liberation —  
Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith
- 1987 Sollicitudo Rei Socialis — John Paul II



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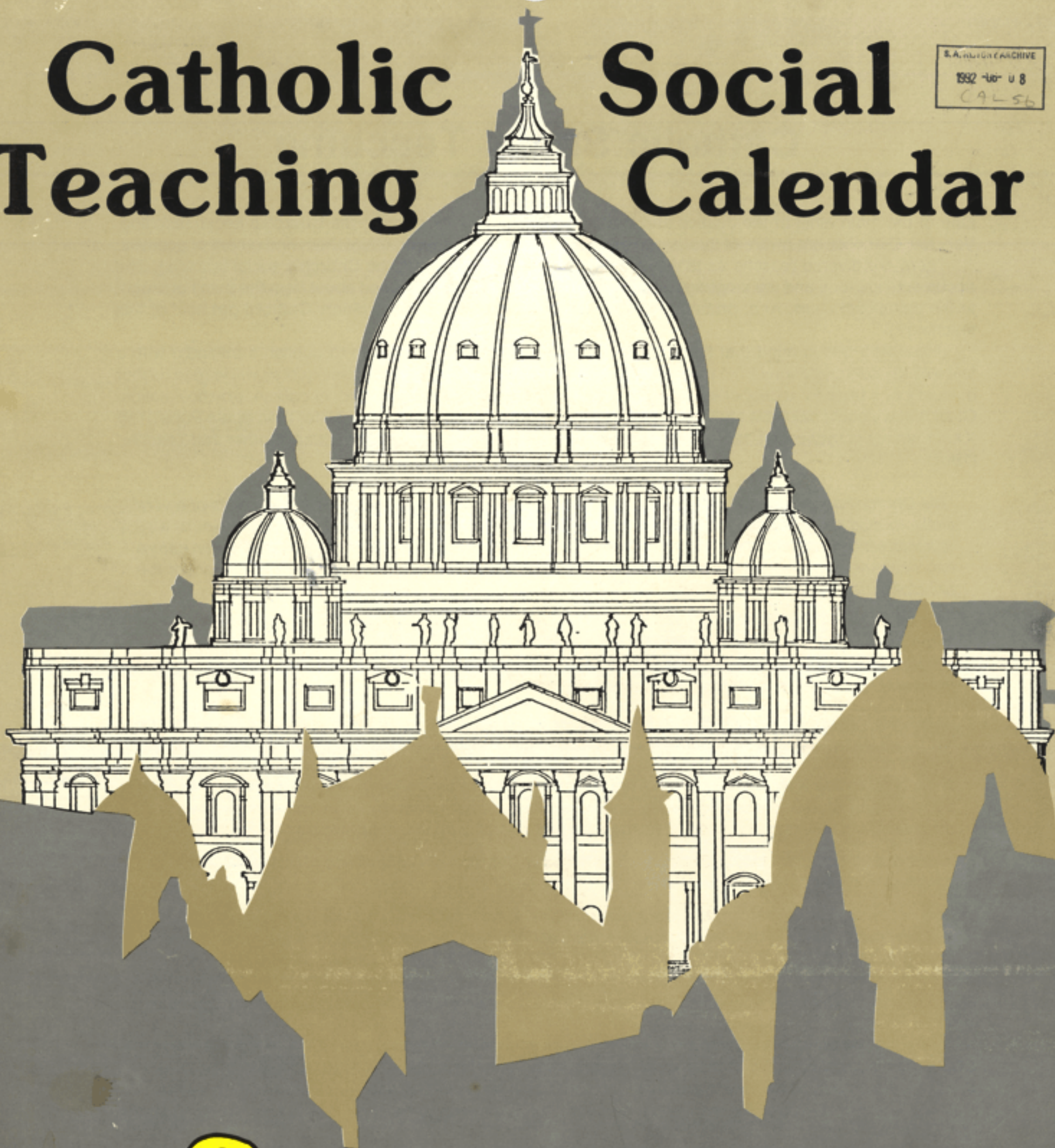
Wille Amunfenya



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