

**Pre Assignment for Mt. St. Joseph University, Christian Social Justice class,
JCG 255-BO/7R**

**Bring your written answers to our first class at
5pm Thursday, October 20, 2016, at Bethesda Oaks**

**Note: Complete as much as you are able.
What we don't cover in the first class, we'll complete in the second.**

Mount St. Joseph University offers this course to organizational leadership students to enable them to investigate and put the Gospel values of Jesus into practice in their personal, social, and professional lives, if they so wish. These values are articulated in Christian Social Justice (CSJ) principles that may serve as useful guides for students who are becoming more effective, moral, just and compassionate individuals and leaders in their current employment and in our local/global community.

Students are requested to bring a copy of this text book for our first class: **Globalization, Spirituality, and Justice: Navigating the Path to Peace**, by Daniel G. Groody, from Orbis Books: Maryknoll, NY, 2015 (revised Edition) ISBN # 978-1-62698-1-150-8. It should be at the MSJ bookstore and is available on Amazon.

NOTE: There are 3 sections below to read, reflect and write about that will provide a foundation for our course and a great discussion for our first class. Just answer some questions from each action, per the directions below.

-----SECTION I-----

#1. **Type a few paragraphs** explaining what are some key learnings, values, ethical principles, leadership and team building approaches from these following previous courses that we can employ to build upon for this new current course?

Ethical Conduct of Business

Ethical & Servant Leadership

Other courses? SERVE? TriHealth Values?

(This will enable your professor to appreciate and honor what you have already learned and it will be a good review of your overall education program.)

#2. **Read** the following on-line definition of the key CSJ principle, "The Common Good" listed just below. Then to get a taste of how Christians of various denominations are currently seeking CSJ, **read at least five of the websites listed below**. You may need to copy and paste these websites into your search engine.

#3) And then type:

a) Your own brief definition of "The Common Good" based on the first on-line reading, per below.

b) A brief summary of the social issues and/or SCJ principles featured in **those five websites**. Notice how often the "common good" comes through. Write any questions or comments you wish to discuss in class about these materials. And what might any of this have to do to your degree program, your work and/or personal life?

Must read, the definition of "The Common Good" (Note! See point #IV) :

<http://www.catholic.com/magazine/articles/seven-principles-of-catholic-social-teaching>

Be sure to read this first one below and at least four others. Then type brief summary about them:

- **Srs. of Charity Office of Peace, Justice and Care of Creation:** www.srcharitycinti.org/opicc/about.htm then click on some of their priority issues.
- **Center of Concern:** <https://www.coc.org/about-us> then read about their mission and vision. Don't miss their **Global Women's Project** at: <https://www.coc.org/gwp>
- **Sojourners:** <https://sojo.net/about-us> then read about their "mission," "vision," "what we cover", and "our history."
- **ICCR, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility:** <http://www.iccr.org/about-iccr> then read about their "mission" and a bit about "Our approach."
- **Evangelicals for Social Action:** <http://www.evangelicalsforsocialaction.org/about/> then read their "vision" and note their "topics."
- **Bread for the Word:** <http://www.bread.org/history-mission> then read about their history and mission.
- **Methodist social principles** at: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/social-principles-social-creed>
- **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:** <http://www.elca.org/en/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages> and note their 13 social messages.
- **8th Day Center for Justice:** www.8thdaycenter.org then click on "About" then "Mission/Vision"
- **Pax Christi USA:** <http://www.paxchristiusa.org/> then, click on "About Us" and then "About our vision."

-----SECTION II-----

#1. **Read** the following booklet to begin building a foundation of Christian Social Justice (CSJ) principles for this course and to shed some light on the current elections issues.

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call for Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States, of December 2015. Available at the MSJ bookstore or on-line at:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-part-one.cfm>

#2. **Type answers** to the following questions while reading this booklet and bring them to class for our discussion. Please write in complete sentences.

Note: You are not being asked yet to pass judgement or agree or disagree with the U.S.bishops' teachings. Rather you are invited to consider their experience, perspectives, and insights based on their understanding of the Bible and Catholic tradition. It is offered to not just to Catholic Christians but to all citizens who are making vital decisions for Election Day, November 8. This reading will allow for a better, clearer class dialogue among ourselves as we investigate CSJ principles and their practical application.

Part I of booklet Questions:

Note! It's not necessary to answer all of these following questions in this Part I but **chose at least five** of them, some from the beginning, middle and end of this part to demonstrate you read this whole part

I.

Be sure to indicate which ones you are answering.

1. What do the U.S. bishops and Pope mean by seeking the "Common Good" (CG)? And why is such a vital Christian Social Justice (CSJ) principle?
2. Name the four basic CSJ principles. And why is the principle, "Dignity of the human person" so foundational to understand how these Catholic leaders view all social issues?
3. What is bishops' stated purpose for writing this guide booklet?
4. What does the U.S. Constitution state about the role of individuals and institutions in offering their views about political dialogue and life? And what do the Catholic leaders bring to political dialogue?
5. How do the bishops define "conscience?" And how they say consciences are well-formed? Why is "prudence" helpful?
6. How do you respond to the bishops' statement, "Catholics many chose different responses to social problems but they cannot ignore their moral obligation to build a more just, peaceful world."
7. What are some of the bishops' "intrinsically evils" and some of their key social issues that cannot be justified?
8. What are some of the positive human rights that need to promoted and guarded??
9. According to the bishops, what could a voter do when faced with the dilemma about which candidate to chose?
10. What are the three sources of Catholic social moral teaching and principles?
11. Briefly explain THE FOUR PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING:
 - a. DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON
 - b. SUBSIDIARITY
 - c. COMMON GOOD:
 - i. Some of the rights that *every* person is entitled to?
 - ii. What is the proper role of the economy for all our sisters and brothers and the rest of creation?
 - iii. What are some of the main duties of employers and employees?
 - iv. How does Pope Francis link the need to promote the CG to the environment?
 - d. SOLIDARITY:
 - i. What does "Making the Preferential Option for the Poor" mean? Provide an example.
 - ii. What do the bishops mean by, "The Church is engaged in the political process, but is not partisan?"
12. According to Pope John Paul II, what IS and what IS NOT the aim of the Church's social doctrine?
13. How do the U.S. bishops want to reform or transform the political direction of our nation?

Part II & III of booklet Questions

Note again! It's not necessary to answer all of these following questions in Part II & III but **chose at least three** of them, some from the beginning, middle and end of each part to demonstrate you read this whole part II.

Indicate which ones you are answering.

(If you are reading this bishops' document on-line, you will need to click on "next" to go to Part II)

14. Why have the bishops changed their stance on the death penalty?
15. PEACE... What are the bishops' teachings on:
 - a. When might military force be used? And for what purposes?
 - b. Torture?
 - c. The sacrifices of our armed forces?
 - d. Conscientious objectors?
 - e. Spread of various weapons?
 - f. Ways to avoid armed conflict?
16. Why do the bishops define marriage the way they do and how to respect others? What rights do children have? What rights should parents have in regard to their children's education?
17. How are religious liberties being limited, per the U.S. Catholic leadership?
18. When it comes to the various aspects of our U.S. and global economy, why is the guiding principle of the "common good" so important?
19. Who are some of the groups the bishops want to protect with national health care coverage?
20. What are some key aspects of the bishops' immigration law reform proposal? And what are the causes of human trafficking?
21. How should the "culture of violence" be converted/eliminated over time, per these religious leaders?
22. What is Pope Francis' point about the controversy of the key factors for environmental degradation?
23. What are some of the recommendations for the media?
24. According to Pope John II, "What is solidarity" and what are one or two ways the U.S. could/should improve the global family?
- 25. As found in Part III:** Briefly summarize some of the bishops' main goals to promote the common good.

-----SECTION III-----

FINAL PERSONAL REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS TO ENCOURAGE:

- further develop socially responsible approaches to decision-making
- grow in organizational leadership skills
- build productive partnerships and,
- advance in personal moral/spiritual/political development

Note again! It's not necessary to type answer all of these following questions but **chose at least three** of them to have a fruitful first class discussion. Try the last two. *Indicate which ones you are answering.*

- a) How were you surprised, challenged, and/or encouraged by the ways the bishops applied CSJ principles to specific issues that face our local and global communities? Name some. Explain **WHY** were you surprised, affirmed, or challenged?
- b) What social/individual values, principals, values, or beliefs are foundational for ***you*** personally and professionally? How could one of them enable you to become an even more effective, compassionate person and community/business leader?
- c) Where do you see any of these CSJ principles at work in your own family, friends, church, or organizations with which you belong? Or have there been any particular experiences in your life that have helped you to understand and experience one of these CSJ principles in action?
- d) If you could dialogue with one of the U.S. bishops about a few issues listed above, what would they be? If you had a different opinion, what reasons would you use to make your case?
- e) **What question(s), personal comments or new insights would do you wish to discuss in this first class, especially based on the readings provided for the pre-assignment**
- f) **In light of what you've written above and reflecting on your past experience, what then are the major goals of your life? Or, what is your purpose or mission of your life, at least at this time? Or, what do you hope will be said about you at your funeral? Why do you think were you placed on this earth?**