



THEOLOGICAL GLOSSARY

Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

The body of social principles developed by the Catholic Church to address human dignity, justice, peace, solidarity, care for creation, work, and the common good. It helps Catholics respond to today's social, economic, and environmental challenges in light of the Gospel.

Integral Ecology

A vision presented by Pope Francis in Laudato Si' that recognizes that environmental, social, cultural, economic, and spiritual issues are deeply interconnected. Caring for creation also means caring for people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Laudato Si' Goals

Seven goals inspired by the encyclical Laudato Si' that provide a practical framework for ecological conversion:

- Response to the Cry of the Earth
- Response to the Cry of the Poor
- Ecological Economics
- Sustainable Lifestyles
- Ecological Education
- Ecological Spirituality
- Community Resilience and Empowerment

Ecological Conversion

A transformation of mind, heart, and lifestyle that leads us to care more deeply for God's creation, one another, and future generations.

Common Good

The social conditions that allow every person and community to flourish. Decisions should benefit society as a whole, not only individuals or particular groups.



Human Dignity

The belief that every human person has inherent and equal worth because each person is created in the image and likeness of God.

Solidarity

Recognizing that we are one human family and sharing responsibility for one another, especially for those who are poor, excluded, or suffering.

Subsidiarity

A principle stating that decisions should be made at the most local level capable of addressing an issue, while larger institutions support rather than replace local communities.

Synodality

The way the Church walks together by listening, discerning, and participating together in its mission.

Evangelization

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through words, actions, witness, and service.

Digital Missionary

Someone who uses digital platforms to communicate the Gospel, promote hope, foster dialogue, and contribute positively to society with creativity, truth, and charity.

Dicastery

A department of the Roman Curia (the Holy See's central administration) that assists the Pope in the governance and mission of the Catholic Church.



Vatican

The Holy See and Vatican City, the central institutions that support the universal mission of the Catholic Church.

Pope

The Bishop of Rome and successor of Saint Peter, who serves as the visible sign of unity for the Catholic Church.

Encyclical

One of the Pope's most important teaching documents. Encyclicals address major issues affecting the Church and the world, offering theological reflection and pastoral guidance.

Apostolic Exhortation

A papal document that encourages the faithful to live out certain aspects of Christian life or to apply the fruits of a Synod or another important ecclesial process. It is generally more pastoral than an encyclical.

Apostolic Constitution

One of the highest forms of papal legislation, usually used to establish significant norms, reforms, or institutional changes within the Church.

Motu Proprio

A document issued personally by the Pope on his own initiative to introduce specific legal or administrative changes.

Pastoral Letter

A letter written by a bishop or bishops to guide, encourage, or teach the faithful on particular pastoral or social issues.



Magisterium

The teaching authority of the Catholic Church, exercised by the Pope and the bishops in communion with him.

Jubilee (Holy Year)

A special year proclaimed by the Pope that emphasizes conversion, reconciliation, pilgrimage, mercy, and renewal in the life of the Church.

Laudato Si'

Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on care for our common home, introducing the concept of integral ecology and calling for ecological conversion.

Magnifica Humanitas

The recent encyclical of Pope Leo XIV on artificial intelligence and human dignity, exploring how emerging technologies should serve the human person, the common good, and ethical responsibility.

Prayer, Discernment, and Action

Three essential dimensions of Christian mission: remaining rooted in God through prayer, seeking wisdom through discernment, and responding through concrete action.