

The three types of Catholic Social Teaching are; firstly, Preferential protection for the poor and vulnerable – this means that we should always be thoughtful about the poor and look after people who cannot afford to look after themselves. Our priority should be to help the poor and be aware of the policy decision that might affect them. We sometimes need to sacrifice in life to see others happy or satisfied and it would be unfair if we obtain everything and others have to go without it. They are also humans like us and should never feel neglected by our actions. As Matt 19: 16-22 quotes “Jesus tells a rich young man that eternal life will be his if he sells his possessions and gives money to the poor”. This simply tells us that the more we sacrifice by providing food, shelter and necessities to the poor, the more we will be blessed.

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Secondly, Participation – Every person has the right to be involved and contribute in the society, for the well-being of all. This means that everyone has the right to work, be educated and participate in politics. One should never be left out but all should work together to sustain. For example, we work to fulfil our family’s basic need so no one has to suffer and be educated to have a better future and gain success in life.

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As for politics, we need to know what is happening in our country, will it be beneficial to all or is one group going to be affected more by the government’s decision than others.

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It has been written in the bible that, “Jesus urges these who are well off to invite the poor, cripples, the lame and the blind to their banquets” Luke 14: 12-13. We are all the children of Jesus; no one is rich or poor, smart or dumb, crippled or normal or even blind. If the eyes of God, we all are equal and therefore one should never be left out, every person’s opinion should be valued.

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Finally, the third Catholic Social Teaching is Universal Destinations of goods. It simply means that whatever the earth has produced is intended for everyone. No one or two people can own a particular thing for himself. Everything has been provided by God for the benefit of all and it is our responsibility to ensure that all have enough to live in dignity. It would be selfish act for a rich person to buy everything and let the poor get nothing. For example, while picking fruits from a tree one should always take an amount that they are capable of eating and leave the rest for others. Another example could be that while buying a piece of land we should not be greedy to own a huge piece of land, which may cause others to have no shelter. It has been said by Luke 5: 29-32 that “Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners causing the scribes and Pharisees to complain”. This means that those that do not share or obtain others share of things always complain.

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The Gospel values of faith, hope and love underpin everything Caritas does. Caritas has helped a number of developing countries, particularly the Solomon Islands. As listed here, Preferential protection for the poor and vulnerable – the Caritas team began a project in the diocese of Auki for providing clean water to approximately 1,500 residents. There’s only one pipe that serves several communities; 30% do not have access to clean water whereas the other 70% of Solomon Islanders do not have access to adequate sanitation facilities which could lead to having risks of deadly diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria. There was originally a system constructed in 1970 and it required a lot of repairing to be done. In this case, we see that the people residing in that community may not have enough financial support to get the water distribution system repaired and therefore Caritas Australia got the system refurbished and also supported the WASH (Water and Sanitation and

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Hygiene) education programme in the diocese of Auki in the Solomon Islands. This step was taken to help the poor by providing clean water and educate the residents about unclean water and inadequate sanitation.

Participation – we see that the Caritas needs help to work with the locals and their partner, Caritas Australia to support various events and actions. It becomes our responsibility to lend a helping hand for the benefit of others. They needed our help to implement a training programme for the teachers of the deaf students that would help all the teachers of deaf students to improve their social, academic and practical skills. The rate of deafness is quite high, hearing aids are unavailable, and therefore opportunities for deaf people are very limited. They may also want to participate in the community and if they do not get much attention, they will feel neglected. There are ways in which deaf people can communicate and participate in the community and Caritas is currently working towards it, but our contribution is required. We can also be a part of the training programme to help these deaf students.

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Universal Destination of Goods – Caritas began projects in Auki and Gizo to fulfil needs such as clean water and education. The water distribution system is being refurbished for seven seaside communities which means that now everyone residing in that area would have access to clean water and not just a few. Secondly, Caritas is helping 12 early childhood teachers to achieve bridging qualifications so that every child in school benefits from this as it will improve the educational outcomes for them. Caritas will also provide these teachers with additional tools, facilities and specific subject upskilling to improve the quality of their instructions, which would help all the students to understand better.

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