



Action Guide



Respond to Pope Benedict XVI's important message *Caritas in Veritate* by taking these steps

"The more we strive to secure a common good corresponding to the real needs of our neighbors, the more effectively we love them. Every Christian is called to practice this charity, in a manner corresponding to his vocation."

Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, no. 7



Prayer for Charity in Truth

Father, your truth is made known in your Word.

Guide us to seek the truth of the human person.

Teach us the way to love because you are Love.

Jesus, you embody Love and Truth.

Help us to recognize your face in the poor.

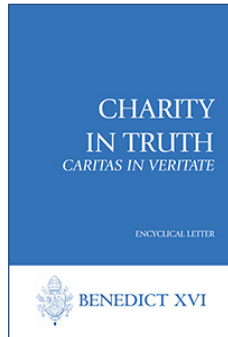
Enable us to live out our vocation to bring love and justice to your people.

Holy Spirit, you inspire us to transform our world.

Empower us to seek the common good for all persons.

Give us a spirit of solidarity and make us one human family.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Read the new encyclical, or teaching document, from Pope Benedict XVI. *Caritas in Veritate* is available from

USCCB Publishing – To order the encyclical, visit www.usccbpublishing.org or call 800-235-8722.

Vatican Web site – View the text of the encyclical at www.vatican.va.

Reflect

Visit the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development Web page on *Caritas in Veritate* at www.usccb.org/jphd/caritasinveritate/ for several useful reflection materials, including

An **individual study guide** to help you reflect on several important themes found in *Caritas in Veritate*.

A **group study guide** to use with your parish or other community to reflect on the teaching document together.

Pray

Use the **Prayer for Charity in Truth** to the left in your own prayer life and in group settings.

Read parts of the encyclical that you find challenging or that you seek to understand better.

Work with the liturgy planning team at your parish to create intentions for use during the Prayers of the Faithful based on themes found in *Caritas in Veritate*.

Act

Use the suggestions on the next page to act in response to *Caritas in Veritate*!



Responding to Caritas in Veritate



Families

Take time to **consider**: How well are we practicing charity toward others in our family and local community? What changes might we make in how we spend time and money to engage regularly in charity and action for justice?

As a family, **explore** some of the **resources** listed in the **Citizens** section below, to learn how Catholics can respond to issues affecting our world.

Reflect on these sections of *Caritas in Veritate*: 6-7, 15, 18, 43-44, 48-51, 53, 68, and 78-79.



Workers

In Catholic teaching, work is a way to support one's family, express one's dignity, and promote the common good. Take time to **consider**: Does my work allow me to use the gifts God has given me for the good of others? How can I apply the values of my Catholic faith and promote justice and charity in the work place? **Reflect** on these sections of *Caritas in Veritate*: 18, 25, 32, 40-42, 62-64, and 69.

Owners, managers, and investors

Business and investment decisions have moral implications. Take time to **consider** ways that your position offers you the opportunity to influence treatment of workers, protect the environment, share knowledge and technology; protect human life and dignity; and promote the common good of local and global communities. **Reflect** on these sections: 22, 25, 32, 35-42, 45-46, 48-51, 58, 62-63, 65, 69, 71, and 73.

Consumers

Consumers have social and moral responsibilities (66). Take time to **consider**: As a consumer, how am I called to live more simply? How can I change my purchasing choices to support companies that defend human life, treat workers fairly, protect creation, and reflect the values of Catholic moral and social teaching? **Reflect** on these sections of *Caritas in Veritate*: 22, 25, 43, 45-46, 48-51, 61, and 66.

Citizens

Take some time to explore the following Web sites, each of which offer opportunities to learn about, and respond to, issues that the Holy Father highlighted in *Caritas in Veritate*.

- Visit USCCB's **Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development** to learn about issues mentioned in the encyclical and to respond: www.usccb.org/sdwp/takeaction.shtml.
- Become one of a million Catholics who are part of **Catholics Confront Global Poverty** sponsored by USCCB and Catholic Relief Services: www.usccb.org/globalpoverty/ and www.crs.org/globalpoverty/.
- Contact the diocesan director for the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** to learn how you can join the efforts of local groups working to address issues affecting those living in poverty: www.usccb.org/cchd and www.povertyusa.org/.
- Explore **Catholic Teaching on Economic Life** at the USCCB Web page www.usccb.org/jphd/economiclife/.
- Visit the USCCB **Faithful Citizenship** Web page for ideas on how you can advocate for human life and dignity year-round: www.faithfulcitizenship.org.
- Learn about the work of the USCCB **Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities**: www.usccb.org/prolife/.
- Consider the issues facing immigrants and refugees. Visit USCCB **Migration and Refugee Services**: www.usccb.org/mrs/.
- Campaign to End Poverty in America with **Catholic Charities USA**: www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.
- For more ideas on how *Caritas in Veritate* calls citizens to respond, **reflect** on these sections: 6-7, 20, 25, 28, 32, 35-45, 48-51, 53, 58, 60, 65, 67, 71, 75, and 78-79.