## Study Guide: Catholic Social Teaching

To study the topic on the Church's teaching about Catholic social teaching, consult the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.** 

- 1. The Catechism asserts that "love of neighbor is inseparable from love of God." Why does it say that? (CCC 1878)
- 2. How does the Catechism define a society? Does the human person exist for society, or does society exist for the human person (in the Church's view)? (CCC 1879-1881; 1929)
- 3. Why are some societies, like the family and the state, *necessary* to the person? In connection with voluntary societies, how does the catechism define *socialization*? (CCC 1882)
- 4. What is the "principle of subsidiarity" (a phrase coined by Pius XI)? Can you give an example of how it works from your own experience? (CCC 1883-1885)
- 5. If the ultimate vocation of the human person is union with God, how must societies conduct themselves? (CCC 1886-1889)
- 6. When does the Christian owe obedience to secular authority—and when is the Christian *not* bound in conscience to obey this authority? (CCC 1897-1904)
- 7. How does the Church understand the meaning of the *common good*? (CCC 1905-1906)
- 8. What are the three essential elements of the common good? (CCC 1907-1910)

- 9. What does a "universal common good" mean? What does it lead to (CCC 1911)
- 10. What does the Catechism recommend with respect to participation in political and public life? (CCC 1913-1917)
- 11. What does respect for the human person entail on the part of society? Why? (CCC 1930)
- 12. What is liberation (as the Gospel speaks of it) incompatible with? (CCC 1933)
- 13. On what does the dignity of men essentially rest? What therefore must be eradicated? (CCC 1934-1935)
- 14. Why does the Catechism encourage generosity to others? (CCC 1936-1937)
- 15. What are some examples of sinful inequalities? (CCC 1938)
- 16. The term *solidarity* is a fairly new one in Church teaching, but it has an old meaning. What does it mean? What are some ways of manifesting it? (CCC 1939-1942)