



The Church's Social Doctrine

20 questions to test saints-in-the-making

DAVID O'BRIEN

This quiz can help you, your students, and your students' families review our Catholic faith. Find the answer key on page 3.

1 Catholic principles for responding to world problems are called _____.

- a) Catholic social teaching
- b) the sacraments
- c) the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- d) the Beatitudes



apply Catholic thought to modern injustices.

- a) Shakira XXIII
- b) Dwayne the Great
- c) Johnny II
- d) Leo XIII

6 According to Catholic teaching, God prefers some _____

_____ races over others.
True | False

2 _____ took missionary journeys to Turkey, Greece, and Rome, according to his letters in the Bible.

- a) Abraham
- b) Mohammed
- c) St. Teresa of Avila
- d) St. Paul

3 St. Francis of Assisi discovered that _____ freed him to do the work of God.

- a) being a soldier
- b) spending his father's money
- c) poverty
- d) talking to the birds

4 Known for doubting Christ's resurrection, _____ brought the gospel to India, where he was martyred for his faith.

- a) Stephen
- b) Thomas
- c) Judas
- d) Mary

5 When Pope _____ supported the rights of workers, he was the first pope to

7 What you own belongs to the _____ and is given for the good of all (see Leviticus 25:23-43).

- a) private owner
- b) bank
- c) government
- d) Lord

8 The _____ is where people should first learn about God, fairness, love, right and wrong, justice, and helping those in need.

- a) government
- b) country
- c) family
- d) school

9 People deserve respect and have worth and dignity because they

_____ .
a) are made in God's image
b) are top students
c) can work and make money
d) are beautiful, strong, and healthy

10 Church teaching promotes peace building and provides moral rules for _____ .

- a) college football
- b) war
- c) PlayStation
- d) fashion

11 The Catholic Church teaches the death penalty doesn't have to be used to protect people from convicted murderers and terrorists.

True | False

12 In the sixteenth century, Jesuit missionary _____ traveled to Asia to proclaim the gospel.

- a) Francis Xavier
- b) Augustine
- c) Patrick
- d) Thomas Aquinas

13 The Lord hears the cry of the _____ (see Job 34:20-28).

- a) owl
- b) Egyptians
- c) sore losers
- d) poor

14 If one member of Christ's body suffers, all _____ (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-26).

- a) call 911
- b) are sad
- c) send money
- d) suffer

15 A person can be a missionary to their family or at their school.

True | False



16 Taking care of the earth is _____.

- a) a requirement of our Catholic faith
b) an Earth Day slogan
c) unnecessary
d) for the Department of the Interior

17 God taught the Israelites to especially protect widows, _____, and immigrants/foreigners (see Deuteronomy 10:18).

- a) Jews
b) orphans
c) family members
d) friends

18 “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s _____ for one’s friends” (John 15:13).

- a) life
b) money
c) favorite video game
d) lunch

19 Catholics serve others _____.

- a) for service hours
b) because it is less boring than class
c) because we were created by God to love and serve
d) so people admire us

20 All people have a right to dignified work, fair wages,



healthcare, decent living conditions, and the freedom to migrate, according to our Catholic faith.

True | False

Kids' quiz *The Importance of Caring for Others*

This quiz can help your students and your students' families review our Catholic faith. Check answers against the answer key on page 3.

1 Jesus said everyone will go to either heaven or hell based on whether we help the people who _____. (Matthew 25:31ff)

- a) sing the best
b) are most needy
c) pay us to help
d) give us candy

2 The _____ were the first missionaries to bring the good news of Jesus to the rest of the world.

- a) Apostles
b) Franciscans
c) Dominicans
d) Jesuits

3 Protecting the life and dignity of all people means _____.

- a) sharing your toys
b) doing your homework
c) being nice to animals
d) saving unborn babies from abortion.

4 Fixing the problems of the world is not something

Catholics care about. We just pray so that we can get to heaven. True | False

5 God created the world and said it was “good”, so we should _____ it.

- a) destroy
b) throw garbage all over
c) take care of
d) pollute

6 Missionaries travel to _____ around the world to tell people about Jesus and help them with their problems the way Jesus would help them.

- a) vacation resorts
b) Walmarts
c) foreign countries
d) soccer games

7 Many missionaries start _____ to help the poor children in the area.

- a) car companies
b) Catholic schools
c) new governments
d) Facebook pages

8 The Church teaches that we should help the people who _____.

- a) need it the most
b) can pay the most
c) complain the most
d) are the most powerful

9 Catholics believe that we are our brother’s _____ and are required to take care of each other.

- a) enemy
b) competitor
c) playmate
d) keeper

10 Only priests can be missionaries. True | False



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ANSWERS TO Catholic I.Q.

from pages 30 and 31

1. **a)** "The Church's social teaching offers wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society" (see *USCCB.org*.)
2. **d)** St. Paul started new churches wherever he journeyed. His letters (to the Corinthians, Romans, Galatians, etc.) provide the basis for many Catholic beliefs.
3. **c)** Without money or power, St. Francis learned to depend on God and others. He was so poor that he had nothing to protect or take care of, so he had more time for God's work.
4. **b)** Descendants of the Christians who first heard about Jesus from St. Thomas (circa A.D. 52) still exist today in Kerala, India.
5. **d)** Pope Leo XIII wrote the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* to express the Church's concern for laborers and defend the rights of workers.
6. **False.** The U.S. Bishops call racism a sin, America's "original sin." All people are God's children and therefore equal (see CCC, 1935).
7. **d)** God created the world for everyone to share. "The goods of creation are destined for the entire human race. The right to private property does not abolish the universal destination of goods" (CCC, 2452).
8. **c)** "The long-range future of this nation is intimately linked with the well-being of families" (*Economic Justice for All*, n. 93, U.S. Bishops).
9. **a)** People's value is not measured by what they contribute to the economy or society. Therefore Catholics recognize the intrinsic worth of the unborn, the elderly, the sick, the disabled, the poor, and even those in prison for terrible crimes.
10. **b)** Examples of rules for war include: no excessive force, no targeting non-soldiers, no attacking first, fighting only as a last resort and for a just cause.
11. **True.** Life in prison is sufficient to protect society. The death penalty eliminates any chance for a convicted criminal to repent and turn to Christ (CCC, 2267).
12. **a)** One of the most successful missionaries ever, St. Francis Xavier baptized an estimated 30,000 people. After a dispute over where his incorrupt body would be kept, the right arm that baptized so many was cut off and taken to Rome while the rest of his body remained in Goa, India.
13. **d)** Unlike the rich, the poor are often unable to take care of themselves and need our help.
14. **d)** St. Paul says we are one body, so what affects one impacts all of us. God calls us to work for the common good and not just ourselves.
15. **True.** Missionaries bring Christ's light into darkness and his love to places of injustice, violence, and hate. Every Christian's job is to bring Christ's light and love wherever they go (see Mark 16:15).
16. **a)** Catholics live their faith by caring for people and all of God's creation. The earth is not just our common home; it will be the home for all generations to come.
17. **b)** God commanded his followers to protect these vulnerable people from being hurt. Vulnerable people in our world such as refugees, the unborn, and the homeless need our help today.
18. **a)** Christ laid down his life and expects us to do the same by giving up what we want for the good of others.
19. **c)** God is love, and we are made in God's image. Love and service is what makes us most alive and happy.
20. **True.** Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. Workers' rights come from God and take priority over economic gains.

Kids' Quiz

1. **b)** When we help people, we are really helping Jesus. He said: "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
2. **a)** The word "Apostle" means to "be sent." When Jesus sent his closest 12 disciples to spread his teachings to the whole world, they became the 12 Apostles.
3. **d)** Catholics believe all of life is sacred from the moment of conception until natural death. Only God decides when life begins or ends.
4. **False.** Since Jesus cared about people's problems — sick children, no wine at a wedding, hungry people — the Catholic Church has always cared, as well.
5. **c)** The US bishops teach: "Care for the earth is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation."
6. **c)** When missionaries provide medicine and education to people in need, the people want to know why they are so kind and generous. Then the missionaries tell them about Jesus.
7. **b)** Before Catholics provided education for the poor, only the rich and the powerful could educate their children.
8. **a)** The Catholic tradition instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
9. **d)** After Cain killed his brother Abel, the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He answered, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). The answer for Catholics is "Yes, we are our brother's keeper."
10. **False.** Catholic sisters, brothers, lay people, and even families have served as missionaries around the world for months, years, or for their entire lives.