

❖ The beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century created inhuman working conditions. In response to these conditions, Pope Leo XIII wrote an encyclical on social justice to teach the world the Christian view of labor. It was called *Rerum Novarum* (On New Things). The encyclical said that workers should receive fair wages, be treated fairly, and form groups to defend their rights. Every pope since Leo XIII has called the world's attention to the need for justice, love, and mercy.

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❖ The Church teaches us about our responsibility to care for those in need by using the themes of Catholic social teaching. The Call to Family, Community, and Participation tells us to support families so they can participate in society and promote the well-being of all. Because God is our Father and we are all brothers and sisters, we have the responsibility to care for one another. This Catholic social teaching theme is called Solidarity.

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❖ Saint John Bosco had a gift for helping boys know God, especially boys who were poor and in trouble. He founded the Salesians.

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❖ Church leaders have pointed out that greed is the root of all war, and that it robs people of their human dignity and rights.

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❖ The Second Vatican Council was called by Saint John XXIII to study the role of bishops in the Church and to renew the life and mission of the Church. The Second Vatican Council replaced Latin with local languages, encouraged people to read Scripture, and said that everyone, not only bishops and priests, is called to holiness.

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❖ Saint John Paul II was a defender of the dignity of human life. Through his leadership, he helped bring about the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe. He emphasized the universal call to holiness and called Catholics to engage in what he called the New Evangelization.

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