

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Learning Intention: To understand the role of subsidiarity as a right in accordance with Church teaching and scripture.

ACTIVITY

1. What is the difference between a right and responsibility?
2. What have you heard in the news lately about the violations of human rights in different parts of the world?
3. Over time, the Catholic Church has released, and continues to release, encyclicals on various issues that exist in our world. It provides a guide on how we should address these issues as a Church and global community. These encyclicals often identify important rights that must be upheld and defended in the preservation of human dignity. Most of these rights align closely with those present in the Universal Declaration of Human rights.

Below is a list of some of these rights. In groups of no more than 4, select the NINE rights you believe are most important, and rank them in order from most important to least important. You may want to write them down on pieces of paper so you can easily change the order around.

The right to food
(RN #4, 10)

The right to shelter
and private property
(RN #5)

The right to a just
living and wage
(RN #34, LE #19)

The right to rest
(LE #19)

The right to life and a
worthy standard of
living
(PT #11)

The right to moral and
cultural values
(PT #12-13)

The right to
development
(JM # 15)

The right to emigrate
and immigrate
(PT #25)

The right to worship
according to one's
conscience; the right
to religious freedom
(DH #13)

The right to freedom of
expression and
thought
(JM #44)

The right to a pension
in old age, sickness or
injury
(LE #19)

The right to social
security connected to
maternity
(LE# 19)

The right to choose
the kind of life which
appeals such as
founding a family or
embracing religious
life
(PT #15-17)

The right to a work
that is not harmful to
one's health or their
moral integrity.
(LE #19)

The right of workers
to form unions; the
right to assemble and
form associations
(RN #38, QA #23)

The right to
appropriate subsidies
for unemployed
workers and their
families
(LE #18)

Key to documents referred to in () above:

RN - Rerum Novarum, 1891

PT - Pacem in Terris, 1963

LE - Laborem Exercens, 1981

DH - Dignitatis Humanae, 1968

JM - Justicia in Mundo, 1971

CA - Centesimus Annus, 1991