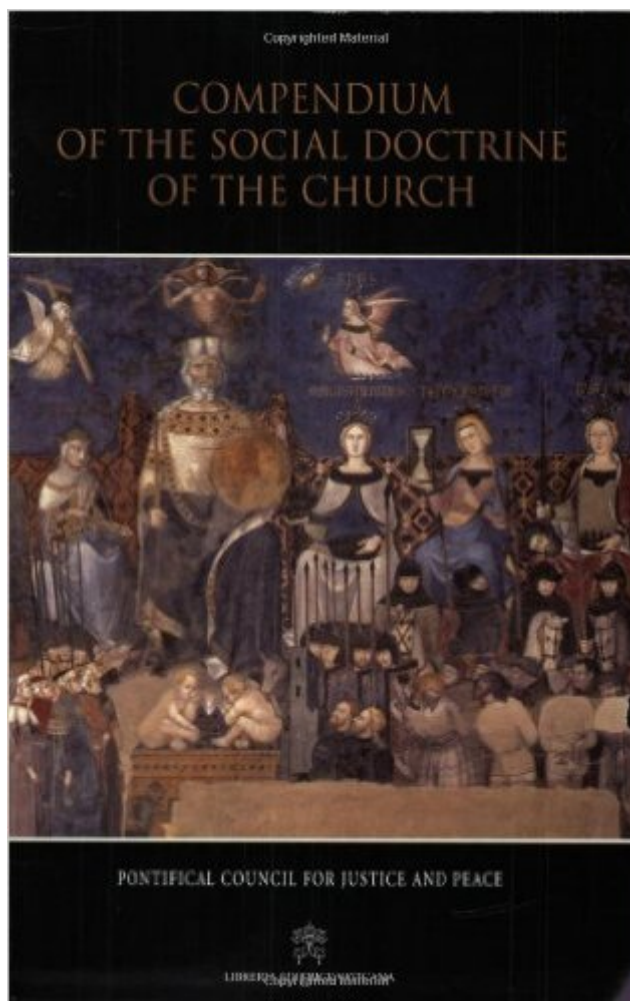


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Compendium Of The Social Doctrine Of The Church



Synopsis

Only available for sale in the United States. The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, a unique, unprecedented document in the history of the Church, serves as a tool to inspire and guide the faithful, who are faced with moral and pastoral challenges daily. It is divided into five sections: an introduction, three parts, and a conclusion entitled "For a Civilization of Love." The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church is a must-have resource for leaders of social ministry at the diocesan and parish level as well as those in religious education, schools, and youth and young adult ministry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Be warned that this amazing work is not a page-turning history of this often-neglected and rich history of Catholic Social Teaching. It reads like a John Paul II encyclical, in both its circular, thorough, hypnotic approach to the many aspects of the teaching as well as the sense one gets that one is witnessing transcendent Truth. Overstatement? Perhaps. I admit to being a huge fan of JP II, but I'm a bigger fan of the One he served so faithfully. I have also had the ability to work full-time in the area of social justice in a faithfully Catholic organization and have often been dismayed by the misunderstandings that many have of Catholic Social Teaching. There seems to be a large group of non-Catholic or semi-Catholic people who do great work "in the trenches" serving as Christ has called us all to do, but often do so with a hostility toward the Church and her teachings. There also seems to be another group of Catholics who are faithful in general to the Church's sacraments and moral teachings, but don't take the Church's call to solidarity with the poor very seriously. Christ's

admonitions to both types of people are easy to find in the Gospel, so there is little need to go into that here, but this volume gives a wake up call to all of us if we will hear it. If you are Catholic, then you are called to be with and serve those who need our help (Solidarity and Subsidiarity - two key principles). It is not for us to choose to let government do it (sorry, Socialists), to serve with bitter revolutionary intent (ditto, Marxists), or to simply insulate ourselves from the less fortunate, sick and needy with material wealth (sound familiar anyone?). If you are not Catholic, then this work still has a wealth of beautiful ideas that can be shared and can serve as a rallying point for those of different faith traditions. Whatever you do, it MUST be centered on Christ. This work makes that beautifully clear without singling out anyone. It would be a great subject for group study, or for anyone who would like to understand the depths of the Church's tradition. We have greatly missed the point of JP II's papacy and teachings if we only found in them our preconceived opinions or the expected dogmatic defensiveness. The message that we are called to be Gift to one another as Christ is for the Church is one that we should all hear, and it glows out of every page in this book. So, yeah, I guess I'd recommend it.

Unique and valuable reference for anyone, Catholic or not, who would like a systematic concept of the theology of social doctrine. While less useful to non-Catholic readers due to its extensive use and references to church documents, its cross references to scripture and general theological/practical content is unique in my experience. Although the publisher's remarks give the reading level as young adult, I would rate it just a notch higher. It is very readable, but has an extensive vocabulary that at times involves words and comments more common to ecclesiastical documents than general reading.

If one is seeking a blueprint, a framework, and a synthesis on putting the Catholic faith 'into practice', 'into action', one will find these qualities in this Compendium. Each sentence carries meaning and there are no unimportant words in this Compendium. It is concise, yet treats each topic with erudite precision. It is inspirational and hopeful! This Compendium makes one ponder deeply about the Catholic faith. It absolutely challenges both the mind and heart of the Catholic religious and lay faithful and exhorts the heart and mind to nobler causes outside of oneself and exhorts us to build a civilization of love, a culture of life. This Compendium, coupled with the previously published Catechism of the Catholic Church, will, in the judgement of history, be considered two classical works, that is, masterpieces. This is a book that all Catholics, at the least, should have on their shelves.

This book is an extremely helpful resource of and addition to Catholic Social Doctrine. The authors (it was written by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace) have collected all Papal and Curial social teachings since Pope Leo XIII's groundbreaking 1892 encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, and the foundations these teaching have in the Bible and the Doctors of the Church. But the book is more than a collection of pronouncements and teachings. It is a fluid and readable book. There are three sections that divide the book. The first section concerning the duty and right the Church has in promulgating a social doctrine "worthy of the human person". Section two is made up of those doctrines themselves. Each chapter being about a major area of social concern: the family, labor, politics, economics, peace, etc.. The third section is about the application of these teachings, by the clerics first and then, in a much longer sub-chapter, by the laity. This section concludes with the drawing out, on a deeper more theological level, all social teaching from the virtues of faith, hope, and love. In fact the whole book centers on the "law of love" as instituted by Christ in his death and resurrection.

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