

2025 Interim Board Meeting- 9/13/25- Catholic Social Justice/Education Report

Sisters,

The National Catholic Social Justice Committee surveyed LAOH membership in February 2025 to determine their interest regarding Catholic Social Teaching. 171 members submitted the survey; most of the participants were in the 57-75 age range. Our membership expressed interest in the following topics:

1. Immigration
2. Economic Justice/Domestic Poverty
3. Human Trafficking
4. Migrants and Refugees
5. Healthcare

The survey included a comments section which allowed the survey takers to expand on their interests and thoughts. The topics most mentioned were:

1. Immigration
 - a. Secular/legal issue
 - b. Human dignity rooted in CST
2. Human Trafficking
 - a. Domestic
 - b. Connected to immigration
3. Poverty/Increase in homelessness
 - a. Domestic
 - b. Connected to immigration
4. Healthcare
5. Gun Safety

Areas of concern listed in the comment section.

1. The need for respect of women who are Pro-Choice and those who need to make difficult decisions.
2. Acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community
3. One member asked why the NCSJEC only provided political topics.
 - a. Every topic came from United States Council of Catholic Bishops website. There is an entire section devoted to Catholic Social Teaching.
 - b. Each topic received support from Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV appears to be following his lead.

The survey indicated our membership prefers an article instead of a webinar to receive information.

NCSJEC discussed how we can address the topics our members expressed learning about in the survey. We plan to utilize both our page on the national website and the Lady Hibernian Herald to push out informative materials. The survey indicates that there is a lack of knowledge regarding Catholic Social Teaching and the topics it covers. Catholic Social Teaching dates to the early 20th century when Pope Leo XIII engaged in advocating for the rights of industrial workers. Its focus on human dignity has expanded beyond the rights of workers to several other topics.

NCSJEC encourages each division to view as a group the Georgetown University –Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life panel discussion titled, ‘The Francis Factor’; when finished viewing the discussion, talk to each other about what you learned. A discussion guide will be posted for you to use to facilitate your dialogue.

NCSJEC believes we can learn from each other. Share the actions that you or your division are taking with regards to Catholic Social Justice issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Merrell

National LAOH Catholic Social Justice Education Committee Appointee