

Social Justice on Catholic Campuses: Is It Enough?

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Social justice is at the heart of social teachings in Catholicism, which build the framework of Catholic institutions of higher education. Through researching how Catholic Universities implement the pillars of Catholic Social Teaching into their campus culture, and by investigating areas where these institutions failed to practice what they preach, the question of whether Catholic Campuses are doing enough to balance the contention between the diverse issues with social justice can be answered.

Core Values: Catholic Social Teaching

- CST is the treasure of wisdom aimed to build a just and holy society, through the doctrines on topics of human dignity and common good
- These ideas are expressed through 7 key themes: Dignity of Human Being,, Rights of Workers, Call to Family and Community, Solidarity, Care for Creation, Rights and Responsibilities, Options for the Poor and Vulnerable.
- Catholic universities should display a commitment to implement these themes and enhance the minds of their students intellectually, spiritually, and morally through curriculum



As a Result...

Although Catholic Universities promote social justice in many ways, through their diverse curriculum, various service opportunities, and culture of inclusivity, there is more work that needs to be done with their faculty to fully align their actions with Catholic Social Teaching

Where Catholic Universities Have Failed

- Despite 'rights of workers' being one of the seven pillars of Catholic Social Teaching, adjunct professors are not being treated in accordance with with these values
- 22% of adjunct professors at Catholic institutions live below the poverty line, and face low wages, scarce benefits, and huge workloads
- Universities are fighting the unionization of their adjunct professors by claiming it infringes on their religious freedom since the conflict it brings could oppose the Catholic Social Teachings notion of solidarity.
- The irony lies in the fact that the universities are ignoring an essential part of their Catholic identity that fights for the rights and justice for workers.
- It is necessary that Catholic universities make a change and no longer pick and choose which social teachings they align with

Catholic Universities Integrate Social Justice Teaching Through...

- Having course programs that are surround and create discussions of concepts in social justice, advocacy, and service
- Campus ministries and community service opportunities that allow students to support policies and programs that promote justice and recognize the foundational and structural factors that contribute to injustice
- Creating an inclusive and welcoming environment with marginalized communities on campus



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