

# The Image



“God created man in his image, in the divine image he created him; male and female alike he created them.” Genesis 1:27

## Economic Initiative & Private Property

### Catholic Social Teaching— Ingenuity, Prosperity and the Common Good

“Everyone has the *right of economic initiative*; everyone should make legitimate use of his talents to contribute to the abundance that will benefit all and to harvest the just fruits of his labor. He should seek to observe regulations issued by legitimate authority for the sake of the common good.” [CCC #2429]

“Property and other forms of private ownership contribute to the expression of the personality, and since they furnish one an occasion to exercise his function in society and in the economy, it is very important that the access of both individuals and communities to some ownership of external goods be fostered... [It is] necessary for the autonomy of the person and the family, and it should be regarded as an extension of human freedom. It adds incentives for carrying on one's function and charge, it constitutes one of the conditions for civil liberties.” [Gaudium et Spes 71]

Catholic Social Teaching strongly defends the vulnerable, the weak and the poor (*Option for the Poor and Vulnerable*). This is why we voice determination that the unborn, the infirm, and the terminally ill never be discarded and we fervently defend their right to life. In addition, with regards to the poor, the right to opportunities and access to those things which allow all people to reach their fulfillment is also articulated (*The Common Good*). What is insisted is the right to ownership (property) and the opportunity to create and invent (initiative). This is to ensure that all people have the possibility to become owners of productive prop-

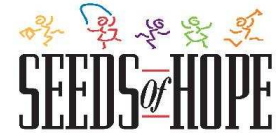
erty in order to provide for themselves and their families. This concept, called distributivism, originating from Catholic documents and thinkers, should not be confused with redistribution of capital (wealth), which socialism advances and the Church has always opposed. The concept of distributivism concerns productive property and the expansion of privately owned and operated businesses as opposed to the domination of markets by a few. Perhaps this concept is best articulated in this statement by G.K. Chesterton, “Too much capitalism does not mean too many capitalists, but too few capitalists.” Dorothy Day stated it this way, “The aim of distributivism is family ownership of land, workshops, stores, transport, trades, professions and so on. Family ownership in the means of production so widely distributed as to be the mark of the economic life of the community...”

“The Church has rejected the totalitarian and atheistic ideologies associated in modern times with “communism” or “socialism.” She has likewise refused to accept, in the practice of “capitalism,” individualism and the absolute primacy of the law of the marketplace over human labor. “Regulating the economy solely by centralized planning perverts the basis of social bonds; regulating it solely by the law of the marketplace fails social justice, for there are many human needs which cannot be satisfied by the market.” Reasonable regulation of the marketplace and economic initiatives, in keeping with a just hierarchy of values and a view to the common good, is to be commended.” [CCC # 2425]



Wisconsin State Capitol Rotunda Mosaic: Lady Justice

## SEEDS OF HOPE: Overcoming Poverty Opportunity, Achievement, Success



Established in 1996, Seeds of Hope Charitable Trust is a partnership between the Archdiocese of Denver, concerned business, and community leaders to raise funds to allow low-income, inner city children attend Catholic Schools. Since its inception, Seeds of Hope has awarded more than \$16 million in financial assistance through tuition assistance, scholarships, grants, vouchers, and Adopt-A-Program efforts. They have helped more than 10,000 students attend Denver Catholic schools.

By fulfilling its mission to make the tremendous benefits of a Catholic education available to economically disadvantaged children, they have contributed significantly to ending the fatalistic cycle of poverty. As Betsy Boudreau, Executive Director of

Seeds of Hope, stated in her Lenten message this year, "Quality education lends itself to individual achievement and aspirations. Catholic schools provide a safe learning environment, encouraging the educational and personal development for children of all faiths. Along with its supportive atmosphere, Catholic schools build a strong foundation for both students and families, and give children opportunities for success that would otherwise not exist for them."

For more information about Seeds of Hope, to participate in events, donate, or learn more about this great program, please visit their website [www.seedsofhopetrust.org](http://www.seedsofhopetrust.org).

### Missions—Africa

#### "A Continent of Hope" - Pope Benedict XVI

Pope Benedict made a week long visit to Africa this spring. He said he would appeal to the international community to be in solidarity with Africa, especially Catholics.

The Pope said that "The Church is catholic, that is universal, open to all cultures, to all continents." He also stated, "the first priority will consist in restoring a sense of the acceptance of life as a gift from God." Every "tiny person" however weak, "is created in God's image. Every person must live! Death must not prevail over life!"

The bishop of Rome expressed his satisfaction at being able to finally to visit this continent, a project that he hoped to realize since the beginning of his pontificate. "I love Africa, I have so many African friends. I love the joy of the faith, the joyful faith that is found in Africa."



The Archdiocese of Denver, assisting the Church in Africa, participates in the annual "Church in Africa Appeal" held on July 25th. The funds from this collection enable the Subcommittee on the Church in Africa of the USCCB to provide grants to finance pastoral projects including outreach programs, schools, evangelization and education of

clergy and lay ministers.

At the same time, the Mission Cooperative Plan of the Archdiocese of Denver is supporting Llambda, an organization run by Deacon Hugh Downey. This organization works with the Eparchy of Keren, Ari-trea, Ethiopia, and Kenya to provide health services, training, services for schools, and sacramental needs of the people in these areas. If you would like to learn more about the good work of Llambda, please visit [www.llambda.org](http://www.llambda.org).

**Did you know that the U.S. Stock Market is always closed on Good Friday?**

## America's First Credit Union — St. Mary's Bank



ATTORNEY BOIVIN'S HOME  
As it looked at the time St. Mary's was founded.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, thousands of immigrants pursuing work and a better life found their way to the mills of the largest textile-manufacturing center in the nation — Manchester, New

Hampshire. Although gainfully employed they were denied the privileges of savings and credit. On a hillside overlooking the mills stood St. Marie's Church.

As pastor, Monsignor Pierre Hevey knew that many of his parishioners worked in these mills and needed a safe place to save their money and gain access to reasonable credit. Monsignor Hevey and his parish-

ioners established the first credit Union in the United States in 1908.

For just \$5, the price of one share of stock, anyone in the community could become a member. Savings were accepted from workers, families, and children. These were in turn lent to members to build homes, establish neighborhood businesses, and meet the personal finance needs of the community.

St Mary's Bank was first housed at the home of James Boivin, the credit union's first president. In 1930 it was rebuilt, and in 1970 remodeled. This credit union is still successful today! More information on this bank can be found at [www.stmarysbank.com/100years](http://www.stmarysbank.com/100years).

## CCHD & Economic Development for the Poor

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development provides grants to small business and economic initiatives which are created and operated by low income people which create a minimum of 10 jobs. The program's objective is to create income or assets for low income people who otherwise would not have access to small business loans. This could be due to limited collateral or credit history. CCHD funds used for business development may be applied to start up costs, expansion efforts, and working capital. At least one third of the of those who plan, implement, and make decisions for the business must be low-income persons. For more information on CCHD and supported Economic Development programs around the country visit [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).



## Catholic Relief Services Microfinance



Members of a micro-finance program in Bai-pariguda, India. Photo by Wendy-Ann Rowel/ CRS

Since 1988 Catholic Relief Services' microfinance program has been reaching the worlds poorest communities with access to financial services that are sustainable over

time. CRS microfinance activities are deeply rooted in Catholic Social Teaching which promotes the sacredness and dignity of the human person. It is committed to serving the

poor, especially women and vulnerable populations. CRS and its microfinance partners have proven the very poor people can leverage savings and credit to live more productive lives.

With more than a million clients in 29 countries, three quarters of them women, CRS and its partners managed a loan portfolio over \$50 million dollars and mobilized client savings of more than \$20 million dollars. CRS supports micro financing in Africa, Asia Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

For people in urban and densely populated rural communities CRS

provides much-needed access to credit services through partner microfinance institutions. Typically, the loans begin at \$40.

For a larger group of extremely vulnerable poor with an even smaller savings and borrowing capacity, CRS developed Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC groups). SILC group members save on a regular basis and engage in small scale internal lending with loans of \$5 to \$20 dollars. Significantly the SILC model is highly replicable. For more information about this program and other great efforts of CRS please visit their website at [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org).

**Office of Social Ministry**

Justice, Peace, and Human Development

Phone: 303.715.3171

Fax: 303.715.2042

Director: Al Hooper

Al.Hooper@archden.org

Coordinator: Betsy Buettgenbach

Betsy.Buettgenbach@archden.org

Archdiocese of Denver  
1300 South Steele Street  
Denver, CO 80210

Visit us on the web  
[http://  
www.archden.org/](http://www.archden.org/)



## New Web Site - Your Voice!

### "I am not going to take it any more!"

Did you read the newspaper today and your blood pressure boiled when you read the first story concerning a legislative issue? You want to be heard but do not know who is, or how, to contact your representatives. This new website allows you to do both. "We hope to use technology to change the culture we live in to better reflect our Catholic values," said Jennifer Kraska, Executive Director of the Colorado Catholic Conference. "Hopefully our website encourages more Catholics, in the words of Pope Benedict 'to bring the witness of their faith to the digital world'. To vote is important, and equally important is your obligation to voice your concerns when representatives error in their judgment and to thank them when they succeed. The Colorado Catholic Conferences legislative network is one way that you can become involved in what is happening right here in Colorado. You can sign up for the legislative network by visiting [www.cocatholicconference.org](http://www.cocatholicconference.org) or calling 303-894-8808.

## An Economy for The Family: A Prophetic Message 1996

### Pontifical Council for the Family

"The family is the basic living cell of society. Every person represents the creative potential which is the real wealth of nations. Modern economists call this creative potential (human capital) and recognize that it is the greatest resource for a healthy economy. This human capital is estimated to be estimated by some to make 80 per cent of the capital of modern nations. However, the foundation of human capital is strong family life. Through the mutual commitment of marriage, by having, raising and educating children, the family is both the producer of human capital and its first investor. Above all the family transmits, values and virtues, thus creating human capital in the true sense – men and women who are willing to give themselves, to make commit-

ments, to trust others and cooperate with them without this a strong economy cannot develop or be sustained.

Religion and morality have direct bearing on a just and prosperous economy which serves the common good. Parents should cultivate in their children the personal and social values and virtues which are essential for a healthy and just society and its economy. The choice is clear and urgent, either family-friendly policies or social collapse.

To strengthen your marriage or if are seeking guidance in your marriage please call the Office of Marriage and Family Life at 303-715-3259.

## Peace Be With You: HIV/AIDS HepC Retreat

This year's retreat, "*Peace Be With You*," will be held the weekend of **August 28th—30th** at the Sacred Heart Jesuit Retreat Center in Sedalia, CO.

During this special weekend you will experience the peace of God and the strength that God's grace has to offer you.

For more information or to register for this special retreat please call (303) 715-3171.

