

CERTIFICATE IN CATHOLIC STUDIES (C.S.S.)

CCS-083 THE SOCIAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CHURCH - SSVP

COURSE OUTLINE

---

In 1891, as the Western world knew the impact of industrialization, the Church's keen concern for social justice motivated Pope Leo XIII promulgated a major encyclical under the title *Rerum Novarum* (1891). This encyclical inaugurated what is now called "the social doctrine of the Church". She says social issues deserve the attention of the Church. Then begin the development and the enrichment of this weighing, constantly retouched thereafter according to the problems which will arise. (p.31, Justice and Solidarity)

The new models of social organization, which developed gradually from the Middle Ages to the last century, had repercussions on the pastoral practices of the Church. Awareness of growing gaps between rich and poor is inspiring a new approach. Solidarity with the poor becomes a priority in the management and use of the resources of the Church, hence the importance given to major charities, such as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. (p.35, J and s)

At the beginning of the 1960s, the Second Vatican Council insisted for a long time on Christians' need to be attentive to the inequalities created by modern liberal societies. This reflection of the Council is found in his document *The Church in the World of this Time*. (p.31, J and s)

This course will allow you to look at the fundamental principles of the social doctrine of the Church at first. Then we will see how these principles are experienced in the heart of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Week 1: the Pope Speaks to Us

- Pope Francis speaks to us
- Great church documents on God's Love Project

Week 2: The Social Doctrine of the Church

- The church and social fact
- The development of this doctrine
- Social doctrine and non-Christians
- Social networks for evangelization

Week 3: The Main Principles of Social Justice

- The common good
- The dignity of the person
- Solidarity
- Subsidiarity

#### **Week 4: The Option for the Poor**

- The question of the international community
- Globalization
- International aid
- Preferential attention for the poor
- The problem of migration
- Fair Trade

#### **Week 5: The Foundations of SSVP**

- The fundamental principles of SSVP
- Vincentian spirituality
- Membership

#### **Week 6: The Organization of SSVP**

- The organization of SSVP
- The role and responsibilities of the conference
- The practical operation of the conference

#### **Week 7: Positions Specific to SSVP**

- Levels of advice
- The spiritual adviser

#### **Week 8: The National Council of Canada and Special Works**

- The national council
- Special works of SSVP

#### **Week 9: The 21 Provisions of the Canadian Statutes**

- Confidentiality
- The principle of volunteering
- Finances
- The work of social justice is prolonged

#### **Week 10: Discover the SSVP Website**

- Discovery of the SSVP, National Council of Canada Website

#### **Homework**

There are ten assignments, usually one page, each worth 10% of the total score. Note that the last assignment might exceed one page.

### **Basic Resources**

French DOCAT, What to do?, Editions du Cerf, Paris, 2016. (Available in Novalis in Canada)  
[Rule and Status of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, National Council of Canada, 2017.](#)

### **Resources Consulted**

Office of Catechesis of Quebec, Center St-Pierre, Justice and Solidarity, Collection the heart on the hand, Novalis, Outremont, 2001.

[SSVP, National Council of Canada Website](#)

Most Rev. Claude Champagne

SSVP, National Council of Canada Website

### **Technical Requirements**

You must have access to the Internet, a high speed ADSL connection or cable  
Know how to surf the web to find educational resources and download files  
Handle the management of the files, the creation of directories and save and find the files