



DECEMBER

Pope Francis on the call to family, community, and participation:

“The great danger in today’s world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God’s voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.”

*Pope Francis, Evangelii
gadium*

Social Teaching of the Month

CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION- *The Catholic Social Teaching focus for December and January.*

In a global culture driven by excessive individualism, our Catholic tradition proclaims that the person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society, in economics and politics, in law and policy, directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. The Church teaches that the role of government and other institutions is to protect human life and human dignity and promote the common good. As our world has become increasingly individualized, people are finding themselves more and more isolated. This is contrary to God’s plan for us. As Catholics, we are called to breathe life into our communities, in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Call to family, community, and participation...

Family: Our family is where we learn to relate with each other, sacrifice for others and, most importantly, love one another. It is also where we develop our sense of participation, justice, and other skills important in a well-functioning society. The family is the most basic form of community. The gift of self to each other creates the environment for children to learn and develop with love.

Community: In our Catholic faith, we are One Body with Christ. As One Body, we are called to care for all, “the common good.” It is the goal of an individual to accomplish good. The goal of a community is the common good. The common good refers both to the good of *all* human beings and to the good of the *whole* human being. To desire the “common good” means to be capable of thinking beyond one’s own needs.

Participation: We are called to participate in our communities by promoting the common good. Community does not just happen; it is something that men and women must work together to develop. Each of us is called to do this in a way and at a level that is appropriate. Participating in the building up of community is one of the ways that Catholics serve the dignity of the human person. The authentic development of the human person is fostered by the pursuit of truth, freedom, justice, and love.

Weekly Virtue Schedule For December

December 7 Generosity St. Elizabeth of Hungary

December 14 Gratitude Ven. Solanus Casey

VIRTUES AND SAINTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

VIRTUE	SAINT
GENEROSITY: Giving of oneself in a willing and cheerful manner for the good of others.	ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY: When Elizabeth was young, she married the prince of Thuringia. He loved her for her kind manner and devotion to God, but the family did not approve. She spent hours in prayer in the castle chapel and took clothing and food to give to the poor. One day her husband's family and friends complained to the prince that Elizabeth was giving away too much food. When he went to her, the bread in the basket had turned to roses. From that day on, her husband supported her acts of generosity.
GRATITUDE: Thankful disposition of mind and heart.	VEN. SOLANUS CASEY: Fr. Solanus Casey spoke in a soft and quiet voice to all who came to him for help. And he prayed. Some say his prayers cured illness. All say his serenity and counsel gave them peace. He was born into a family with simple faith. He maintained that simple faith all his years. In everything, Solanus took God's word to heart. He would often say "Give thanks ahead of time." In other words, trust God and give thanks no matter what happens; God never abandons you.