

What Does Jesus' Church Teach about Socialism?

In **Matthew 28:18-20**, Jesus states:

“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

We see from this that we have a duty to teach what Jesus teaches through His Church so as to create an environment so that people can follow Jesus. You, as part of the Church, have a duty to learn the truth and charitably correct ideologies that are disordered. This is not political, but a moral mandate from God Himself. We are to live the virtue of fortitude, and not fall into the vices of cowardice and sloth.

Below is most of a 2016 article written by David Deavel, a Catholic scholar. Enjoy.

The Catholic Church on the Seven Deadly Sins of Socialism: However well-intended, socialism is a virus that drains human energy and degrades us.

What Is Socialism?

Numerous [news reports](#) this year indicated that “millennials” have embraced socialism as a choice, while at the same time those same people also support free markets, oppose government ownership of the means of production, and oppose a government-directed economy. What such people seem to mean by socialism is simply a large welfare state by which income is redistributed.

But perhaps we should take socialism to mean what its advocates and practitioners have really, [historically meant](#) by the word: a society in which “the major part of the means of production of goods and services is in some sense socially owned and operated, by state, socialized or cooperative enterprises”; where rights of private property and economic initiative are not acknowledged; where free markets are suppressed; and where the state usurps the God-given rights and duties of families and the Church. In these and other areas, the Catholic Church [has firmly warned us](#) that socialism exerts a de-Christianizing, even a dehumanizing influence.

Socialism's Seven Deadly Sins

1. Socialism truncates the human person. Catholic teaching has at its heart a focus on the inviolable dignity and wholeness of every human person, as well as the need for personal transformation to transform society. While not all socialists have been atheists, the questions that socialists ask tend to focus on the care of the body instead of the soul — and the answers that they tend to

give focus on systems, not people. In his landmark encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (“Concerning New Things”), Pope Leo XIII taught that even the satisfaction of bodily and material needs was dependent upon the care of the whole person: “And since religion alone, as We said in the beginning, can remove the evil, root and branch, let all reflect upon this: First and foremost Christian morals must be reestablished, without which even the weapons of prudence, which are considered especially effective, will be of no avail, to secure well-being.” (82).

2. Socialism denies the rights of the family. Christian morals and natural virtues are taught and indeed “caught” most often in the family, which the Church has taught is the center of human society. *The Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching* affirms the “priority of the family over society and over the state.” (214) While socialists classically think in only two categories — the individual and the state — Catholic teaching emphasizes that “society and the State exist for the family” (ibid.). The omni-competent socialist state supplants the functions of families and shatters society into tiny atoms whirling around a single nucleus: the federal government.

3. Socialism crushes civil society. The Church teaches that the state exists to protect and empower families and other parts of *civil society* — those “little platoons” of professional, local, cultural, artistic, religious and other associations that fulfill people’s material, social, and spiritual needs. (This key principle is called [subsidiarity](#).) While prudence may dictate that in certain limit situations the state must step in and fulfill some needs that civil society or even a family or families cannot provide for, *The Compendium of Social Doctrine* observes that such “intervention” should always be seen as “*exceptional*” (no. 188). If someone outside the government *can* accomplish something without using coercion, it’s at best a dangerous lack of prudence and quite often simply a serious violation of justice to get the government involved.

4. Socialism tramples on the sacred human right to private property. Socialists assert that private property essentially belongs to the state to be used for the common good. While Catholics have always believed that the goods of this earth belong to the whole human race and are to be used by all, this does not mean that the state should control all of them. In *Rerum Novarum* Leo XIII defended not only the practical benefits of private property, but argued that those benefits came from the fact that private property was according to natural law: “The human race, he said, has found in the law of nature itself the basis of the distribution of goods, and, by the

practice of all ages, has consecrated private possession as something best adapted to man's nature and to peaceful and tranquil living together." (11)

This right is of course accompanied by the duties to use private property to provide for the needs of one's family and those in need. But it is still a right even if it's sometimes abused.

5. Socialism promotes class warfare. Because of its Marxist origins, socialism goads workers into the unrelenting "class warfare" which Marx himself saw as the engine driving human history. Instead of partners in productivity and human cooperation, owners and investors are seen as workers' enemies — as if all wealth were a fixed, unchanging pie over which citizens should fight for their limited share. Pope Pius XI condemned this view of society, urged socialists to renounce the very concept of class warfare, and warned Catholics of the dangers of cooperating with socialists under any circumstances: "Whether considered as a doctrine, or an historical fact, or a movement, Socialism, if it remains truly Socialism, even after it has yielded to truth and justice on the points which we have mentioned, cannot be reconciled with the teachings of the Catholic Church because its concept of society itself is utterly foreign to Christian truth." (*Quadregesimo Anno*, 117)

6. Socialism thwarts our right to take economic initiative. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states bluntly, "Everyone has the *right to 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." (2429) The abundance created by economic activity is clearly designed for the good of all, but this in no way negates the justice of entrepreneurs and inventors "harvesting" profits. Prevent them from doing that, and soon there will be no economic initiative at all — and perhaps no economy, as the unfortunate citizens of Venezuela are discovering.

7. Socialism replaces love with bureaucracy and class conflict. This right to economic initiative is also connected to the benefit of the human person. St. John Paul II observed in his encyclical *Sollicitudo rei socialis* that to deny the right of economic initiative in the name of an "alleged 'equality'" would be a violation of "the creative subjectivity of the citizen" (no. 15). Again, human persons don't just have material needs, but spiritual ones that creativity and economic initiative help fulfill.

Socialism focuses on justice, but Catholic teaching emphasizes that for a good society, something much deeper is needed: love. Yes, justice is the main goal of

politics, but political life is not all there is, because human persons are more than just material beings. Pope Benedict XVI wrote that even the most just society would require love, something that cannot be given by the state: The State which would provide everything, absorbing everything into itself, would ultimately become a mere bureaucracy incapable of guaranteeing the very thing which the suffering person — every person — needs: namely, loving personal concern. (*Deus Caritas Est*, 28).

Matthew 7:17, 20. Jesus says: "Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. So by their fruits you will know them."

Jesus asks us to bear good fruit. We bear good fruit by glorifying God and working for the salvation of souls daily. Here are a few things that keep us from bearing fruit:

1. Believing the heresy: "Everyone will be saved." Is this what the Bible says? In **Mt 7:13**, Jesus states: "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many." [If everyone is saved, why be Catholic or go to Mass and Confession?]

2. Holding on to fear and discouragement. These cripple us and keep us from growing spiritually.

3. Not continuing to study and grow in our faith. Athletic proverb: "If you are not getting better, you are getting worse." **1 Pt 3:15** states: "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope."

4. Living out of the emotions and not the intellect. Years ago a little girl, six years old, got sick during the day at her Catholic school. She was rushed to the hospital but died within 12 hours. Many people from that town talked well about the whole incident because the parents were telling everyone they had a princess in heaven. They got lots of support at the funeral Mass and beyond. These parents had worked through their emotions and chose to believe the truth in their intellect.

On the other hand, some people get angry at God and quit praying and going to Mass. They cannot produce spiritual fruit because they are living in the emotional realm, and not within the truth and the intellect.

5. Negative gossip. Unfortunately, we have been taught to give our opinions quickly. Are our opinions well-informed? Do our opinions build up the Kingdom of God or tear it down? The truth sets us free. **Jas 3:5-6** says: "Consider how small a fire can set a huge forest ablaze. The tongue is also a fire. It exists among our members as a world of malice, defiling the whole body and setting the entire course of our lives on fire, itself set on fire by Gehenna."

Thank You to All the Volunteers at the Fish Fry

Thanks to all those who volunteered to work at OLS on Friday to raise money for our kids to go to Stuebenville of the Rockies. An incredible crowd of 76 people showed for the event.

On another note, it was great to see about 35 people come to Stations of the Cross at St. Peter. Thanks to the 20 of you who came to the Traditional Latin Mass at 5:30 p.m. to give God glory and praise.

Thanks to All Volunteers at All the Churches

We thank you by offering Masses for you during the year. We are very grateful for all the organization and hard work. Thanks for clearing the snow from the sidewalks in this difficult winter season.

Friday Masses, March 22

- StP, 5:30 p.m. (English); then Stations and dinner
- StA, 4:30 p.m. (**Traditional Latin Mass = TLM**); then dinner and Stations

Note: Dinners for Stations of the Cross are at 6:30 p.m. at StA, StB, and OLS

Friday Meatless Suppers and Stations of the Cross

- St. Peter:** Stations, 6:30 p.m.; soup/bread supper, 7:35 March 22, 29; April 5, 12 (Stations are bilingual)
- St. Anne:** Soup/bread supper, 5:30 p.m. Stations, 6:30 March 22 (incense used), 29; April 5, 12
- Our Lady:** Soup/bread supper, 5:30 p.m. Stations, 6:30 April 12
- St. Bernard:** Meatless supper, 5:30 p.m. Stations, 6:30 March 29 (incense used)

Traditional Marriage Crusade at St. Peter, March 23

Please join the 2019 Traditional Marriage Crusade in support of traditional marriage. We must ask God to save America. The Rosary with the intercession of St. Mary and St. Joseph is very powerful.

Please join us in praying for our nation on Saturday, March 23 at 12:00 noon, at St. Peter, Kremmling. There will be 3,000 Rosary Rallies going on across the country.

Contact Kathy Reliford at 309-648-4822 for more information.

Bishop Fulton Sheen: “A religion that does not interfere with the secular order will soon discover that the secular order will not refrain from interfering with it.”

Wisdom of The Dialogue of St. Catherine

Summary of Chapter 10. Imagine a circle traced on the ground with a tree growing within. God the Father says: “So think of the soul as a tree made for love and living only by love. Indeed, without this divine love, which is true and perfect charity, death would be her fruit instead of life. The circle in which this tree’s root,

the soul’s love, must grow is true knowledge of herself, knowledge that is joined to Me, who like the circle have neither beginning nor end.”

“So the tree of charity is nurtured in humility and branches out in true discernment. The marrow of the tree is patience, a sure sign that I am in her and that she is united with Me.”

Tuesday, March 19. Solemnity of St. Joseph

Give God glory on Tuesday by honoring St. Joseph. If you can’t come to Mass, ask St. Joseph for help on Tues.

Calendar of Events

- Mar 22 (Fri).** Stations of the Cross at StP and StA
- Mar 23 (Sat).** Rosary Rally for Traditional Marriage, StP
- Apr 20-21.** Easter schedule in next week’s bulletin
- Apr 27-28 (Sat-Sun).** USAFA Cadet Choir, take two!
The cadets want to try to come again.
- Jun 16-21, (Sun-Fri).** *Totus Tuus* (VBS), at OLS

Mass Collections, Mar 9 – 10

St. Anne	\$ 1654
St. Bernard	3459
Our Lady of the Snow	1458
St. Peter	841
St. Ignatius	1118
Total	\$ 8530

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

Sat—Carlos Valasquez & Miguel Mendoza

Sun—Clayton Arbulu & Samuel Munson

Mon—Anthony Phan & Michael Tran

Tue—Joe Bui & Sean Conroy

Wed—Holy vocations to marriage

Thu—Men in our family lines called to the priesthood

Fri—Increase in vocations to priesthood/religious life

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

- Sat, Mar 16, StA, 5 p.m., Alex and Rachel Salinas
- Sat, Mar 16, StB, 4 p.m., People in our region/visitors
- Sat, Mar 16, StB, 5:30 p.m., Alwyn and Joanne Schopp
- Sun, Mar 17, StB, 7 a.m., Abbey of St. Walburga Sisters
- Sun, Mar 17, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Dollie Darrah

Weekday Masses

- Mon, Mar 18, StA, 8:30 a.m., +Connie Suyehira
- Tue, Mar 19, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Jennifer Armstrong
- Wed, Mar 20, StB, 8:30 a.m., Todd Winczewski, Leslie
- Thu, Mar 21, OLS, 8:30 a.m.,** Special Intention
- Fri, Mar 22, StA, 4:30 p.m.,** [TLM], Special Intention

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

- Sun, Mar 17, StP, 10 a.m., Ed Szalkowski
- Sun, Mar 17, StI, 1 p.m., People in our region/visitors
- Fri, Mar 22, StP, 5:30 p.m.,** [English], Special Intention