

INCLUSION

Inclusion in Catholic Social Teaching means welcoming all people into community life by recognizing their sacred value, ensuring their active participation, and prioritizing the vulnerable. It is rooted in core principles rather than modern secular political frameworks alone.

Core Foundations of Inclusion (Catholic Social Teaching)

- **Human Dignity:** Every person is made in God's image and holds an innate, unchangeable value that requires respect.
- **Participation:** A just society allows all members to take part in economic, social, and cultural life, meaning nobody should be pushed to the edges.
- **Preferential Option for the Poor:** Moral focus must go first to the weak, the marginalized, and those suffering from neglect or injustice.
- **Solidarity:** A firm bond of fellowship that unites all people as one human family, crossing lines of race, wealth, or ability.

Paragraph 72 of Pope Leo XIV's apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi Te*, states that educating the poor is a strict Christian duty rather than a mere favor. It frames knowledge as a basic human right and a gift from God essential for human dignity.

Paragraph 72 - *Dilexi Te*

- **Duty, Not Favor:** Educating those in need is an absolute obligation for the Christian community.
- **Human Dignity:** Access to knowledge is required to recognize and respect a person's worth.
- **Integral Formation:** Schools should build characters open to goodness, beauty, and truth—not just teach professional skills.
- **Building Society:** True Catholic schools act as centers of inclusion and human growth that bridge faith and culture

