

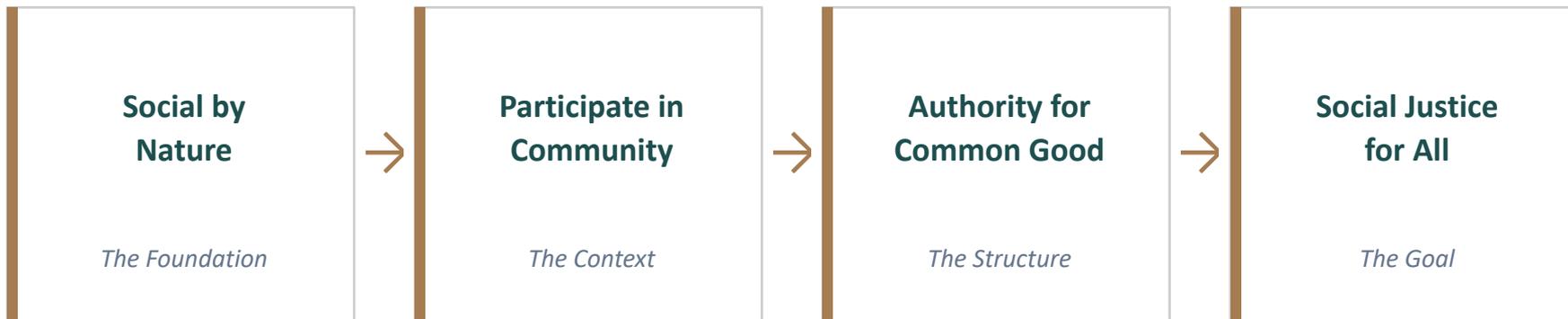
The Human Community

Catechism of the Catholic Church
Part III, Section 1, Chapter 2

Parent Session for Sacramental Preparation

The Big Question

How do we live well together?



The Person and Society

We are made for community — it's essential to who we are

Social by Nature

Human beings need others to develop and flourish. We cannot reach our potential alone.

Family is Foundational

The family is the “original cell of social life” — where we first learn to live with others.

Multiple Communities

Family, parish, neighborhood, nation — each plays a role in our formation.

Key Principle: Subsidiarity

Decisions should be made at the lowest competent level.
Higher organizations should not take over what smaller communities can handle.

State ↔ Family

The government should support families, not replace them. Parents have primary responsibility for their children's education and formation.

Parish ↔ Family

The parish supports what families do at home. Sacramental prep doesn't replace parents — you are the primary teachers of the faith.

The Common Good

The sum of social conditions allowing people and groups to reach their fulfillment

Respect for Persons

Fundamental rights and freedoms must be honored

Social Well-Being

Food, health, education,
work, family

Peace & Security

Stability that allows society to flourish

Social Justice and Solidarity

Social Justice

Ensures conditions that allow people to obtain what is their due

- Respects human dignity
- Promotes equal treatment
- Opposes sinful inequalities
- Requires action, not just good intentions

Solidarity

We are responsible for one another as members of one human family

- Sharing of spiritual goods
- Sharing of material goods
- Working for a just social order
- Preferential love for the poor

The Family: School of Social Life

Your family is where children first learn to live in community

Through Daily Life

- Sharing meals together
- Dividing household chores
- Resolving sibling conflicts
- Making decisions as a family
- Practicing forgiveness

Through Outreach

- Practicing hospitality
- Serving those in need together
- Participating in parish life
- Discussing news through faith lens
- Supporting extended family

Questions for Reflection

1

How does your family function as a “little church”? What practices build your children’s sense of belonging to the faith community?

2

How do you help your children see themselves as part of a larger community beyond your family?

3

In what ways does your family practice solidarity with those in need?

*Your family is the first school of
Christian life and human enrichment.*

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1657

Key References: CCC 1877-1948