

# **INTEGRATING CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT INTO THE THOUGHT AND LIFE OF THE UNIVERSITY**

## ***A PROGRAM OF STUDY OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT***

### **A CONCEPT PAPER**

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### **Objectives and Goals**

The Center for the Study of Catholic Social Thought creates a venue for members of our academic community at Duquesne University to engage in a discourse on Catholic Social Thought and how it is brought to bear on social issues and problems of contemporary times, with a focus on poverty, racism, and inter-religious dialogue.

The goal of this academic endeavor is to have faculty, administration, and staff come in contact with Catholic Social Thought as a religio-ethical resource for public discourse on social issues. The legitimacy and validity of this resource is opened to dialogue and critique from the perspectives of various disciplines, which can result in the enrichment of multi-levels of study and inquiry on social issues.

The study of Catholic Social Thought shall enhance the research possibilities for faculty in conjunction with the Fr. Richard V. Paluse Faculty Mission-Related Research Awards. Four grants of five thousand dollars shall be granted annually in support of the mission of the Center in fostering study and research on social issues consistent with the ethos of Catholic Social Thought from various perspectives of academic expertise.

The study of Catholic Social Thought also provides a religio-ethical framework for course development and for teaching. It can result in a revised course syllabus that draws on Catholic Social Thought themes and documents. The Paluse Faculty Mission-Related Research Awards may also be extended to these academic endeavors. The end-goal is the promotion of Catholic Social Thought and its enduring religious and ethical values for contemporary society.

Enhancing their research and enriching their teaching with Catholic Social Thought, the faculty may come to understand more deeply and participate more fully in the mission of Duquesne University as a Catholic University, in its commitment to academic excellence, within the framework of moral and spiritual values, and inspired by a profound concern for social justice.

Administration and Staff are also invited to attend the program of study of Catholic Social Thought. What is envisioned is an academic community imbued by the fundamental principles of Catholic Social Thought, as these deeply resonate with the Spiritan tradition on which the University mission is founded. All in all, raising critical consciousness and inspiring greater social commitment that will hopefully cascade to individual transformation and communal renewal is the aim of this program.