

A LIVELY AND ENLIGHTENED FAITH

Catholic Social Teaching in the Viatorian Community

7. Workers' Rights and the Dignity of Work

Christ calls us to uphold the inherent value of work so that a just wage and a just economy can serve the individual and society.



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Questions for Reflection

1.1 Viatorians walk with people who society accounts of little importance. How are workers, especially lower wage and hourly workers, often marginalized? How do we undervalue or pay too little attention to these people?

1.2 What causes two sides to be in a stalemate, without a resolution? How can a third-party help negotiate and identify compromise? Hint: think of your circles of friends and family members and how disagreements unfold there.

1.3 What sorts of things do you think a company and its management can fairly expect? What sorts of things can workers and unions fairly expect? How might each side's demands become excessive?

2.1 Why might it be more difficult to connect an asylum seeker to a job?

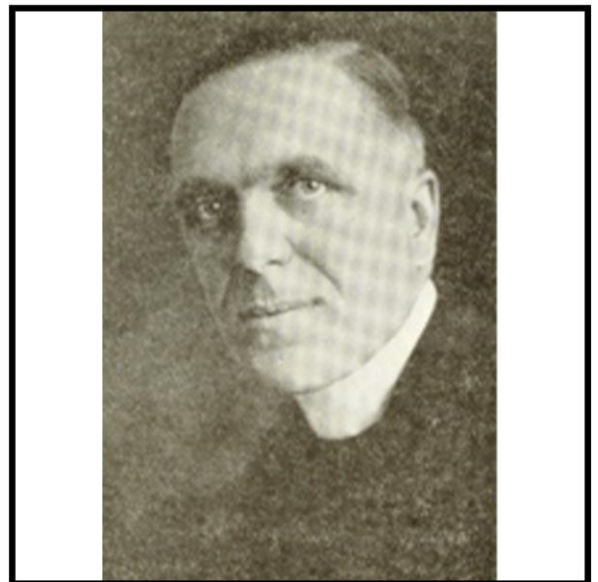
2.2 What do you think about asylum processes? How would you want our government to handle a newly arrived person who wants to work while they await a legal hearing?

2.3 Why might an employer be skeptical or hesitant in hiring an asylum seeker? What concerns are valid? What concerns come from places of fear or intolerance?

3.1 Think about your neighborhood: How big are the houses? How big are the yards? How spread out is everyone? Could a working-class person could buy or rent a home near you? Why or why not?

3.2 Why might some people be wary of having townhouses, four-family homes, apartment complexes, or other high-density housing in their neighborhood? What are the legitimate concerns? What concerns come from a place of fear or intolerance?

3.3 How can struggling areas improve without necessarily becoming richer and whiter?



VIATORIAN



@ViatorianUSA
vocations@viatorians.com