New Catechism and Social Duties

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NEW CATECHISM
AND SOCIAL DUTIES

A new edition of the Catholic catechism prepared by an episcopal commission formed in 1942 has just been published. It replaces the former one which has been in use for more than sixty years. The Archbishops of Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Rimouski and Sherbrooke have prescribed that it be taught in the schools under their jurisdiction.

In view of the ever-increasing social exigencies of the present-day world, a new section concerning the duties of employers and employees, citizens and those who govern, has been added to the lesson about the duties of inferiors and superiors.

Here is the text:

Duties of Employees and Employers

451—What does the fourth commandment of God command employees to do?
The fourth commandment of God commands employees to respect the person and the property of their employers, to work conscientiously and to observe their labour contract.

452—What does the fourth commandment of God command employers to do?
The fourth commandment of God commands employers to respect the person, the right of association and the labour contract of their employees, to pay them a family wage and to make it easy for them to accomplish their religious duties.

453—What must employees and employers do to settle their disputes?
They must use all honest and peaceful means at their disposition.

454—What is the best way to make sure that there is justice and charity between employees and employers?
To form Catholic associations or syndicates of employees and employers.

455—When do employees and employers have the right to suspend work to settle their disputes?
In extremely serious cases, after all other ways have been tried.

Duties of Citizens and Those Who Govern

456—What does the fourth commandment of God command citizens to do?
The fourth commandment of God commands citizens to love their native land, to work for its prosperity and to defend it even at the cost of their lives.

457—What must citizens do in order to work for the prosperity of their native land?
Respect the legitimate authority, obey just laws, choose conscientiously those who govern and accomplish their duties as citizens.

458—Why must we respect civil authority and obey the law?
Because all authority comes from God.
459—How do citizens choose conscientiously those who govern?
   In voting for the candidate that they judge to be the most capable of assuring
   the common good of all citizens.

460—What does the fourth commandment of God command those who govern to do?
   The fourth commandment of God commands those who govern to assure the
   common good of all the citizens.

461—What is the common temporal good of all citizens?
   It is the highest degree possible of well-being in this life, for the soul and the
   body, brought about by the union and cooperation of the efforts of all.

462—What must those who govern do to assure the common good of all the citizens?
   Respect the rights of all, make just laws, administer justice well, divide up
   equitably the tax burden, grants and public charges.

463—What are the rights that the State must respect?
   The higher rights of God and the Catholic Church, the rights of the family
   and the human person, the rights of private associations and the rights of other countries.

STATEDMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF THE CCCL

NATURE AND PURPOSE

The Canadian and Catholic Confederation
of Labour is a free and democratic trade union organization. National in character,
it derives inspiration for its principles and
its activities from the social doctrine of the
Church, which it recognizes as being the
only doctrine capable of ensuring the social
order.

Its purpose is to promote the professional,
economic and moral interests of Canadian
workers.

It aims at ensuring the individual and
collective promotion of the workers by fa­
vouring their physical, intellectual and moral
development and by creating for all condi­
tions such as will enable them to live in a
human and Christian way. It tries to con­
tribute towards the establishment of orderly
relations between employers and employees,
in accordance with truth, justice and charity;
among other immediate objectives in this
domain, it aims at ensuring full use of the
natural right of association and advocates
collective agreements, social security measures
and sound labour legislation.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

The Syndicate is the most effective means
the workers have of defending and pro­
moting their professional interests. There­
fore the natural right of association of all
workers should be recognized, without dis­
tinction, and the putting into practice of
this right should be facilitated, if necessary,
by union security measures. The profes­
sional association is the worker's normal
organization for bargaining, representation,
participation and co-operation at all levels
of the concern, of the profession and of the
country's economy.

STRUCTURE OF THE CCCL

No workers' Syndicate may be admitted
to membership in the CCCL unless it is
first of all affiliated with its professional
federation and with the central Council in
its district or locality. Affiliation is not
compulsory with any other labour organiza­
tion set up by the affiliated bodies.

As long as its charter of affiliation is main­
tained, every affiliated body adheres to the
present statement of principles and is bound
to observe the rules and regulations of the
CCCL.

THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE COMMON GOOD

The economic system now prevailing in
our country underrates human and spiritual
values. According to this régime, the search