

Study and Discussion Questions
For
Pastoral Constitutions on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)

Part Two Chapters III, IV, and V

GS – Gaudium et Spes

(#) – paragraph number

Part Two Chapters III-V

Ch. III “Economic and Social Life”

- The Council states, “Today more than ever before there is an increase in the production of agricultural and industrial goods and in the number of services available, and this is as it should be in view of the population expansion and growing human aspirations.” What does GS express that we must encourage to and contribute to economic progress? Why? What is our personal role in this endeavor? (64)

- Describe how we and especially public authorities should practice justice and equity to guard against discrimination in regard to workers? What is my personal role in safeguarding justice and equity in the work place? (66)

- How did the work of Jesus Christ at Nazareth ennoble the dignity of work? How does this shape my own thinking of work for me and for society? (67) (72)

Ch. IV “The Political Community”

- The Council states, “The guarantee of the rights of the person is, indeed, a necessary condition for citizens, individually and collectively, to play an active part in public life and administration.” How does this affect us in today’s governance? In regards to the common good and the teachings of the Catholic Church on the respect for human life in all stages, marriage, and the exercise of religious freedom? (73) What are the five non-negotiables for Catholics to consider both personally and in the public arena? How does Catholic Social Teaching shape our thinking if serving in public office or when casting our vote?

 - Why must the Church have true freedom to preach the faith at all times? (76)
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Ch. V “Fostering of Peace and Establishment of a Community of Nations”

- List some of the root causes of war. (83)

- What is the role of Christians in the international aid (88), international organizations (90), and of local Churches (91)