



Learn More About...

# Consistent Ethic of Life

An Annotated Bibliography

Click [HERE](#) for more resources on the various interrelated issues that are part of a consistent ethic of life.

## Web Sites

*Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good* <<http://www.catholicsinalliance.org/>>

*Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good* is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the fullness of the Catholic social tradition in the public square. *Catholics in Alliance* is a resource of Catholic teachings about justice, human life and dignity, peace, poverty and the common good.

*Center of Concern* <<http://www.coc.org/>>

*The Center of Concern* is a faith-based organization working in collaboration with ecumenical and interfaith networks to bring a prophetic voice for social and economic justice to a global context. The Center is both a provider of information and analysis as well as a catalyst for launching projects to address issues or opportunities that advance an authentic human development agenda. Through analysis, education, advocacy and capacity building, the Center challenges structural injustice and promotes innovative economic alternatives.

*Consistent Life* <<http://www.consistent-life.org/>>

*Consistent Life* (formerly the Seamless Garment Network) is committed to the protection of life, which is threatened in by war, abortion, poverty, racism, capital punishment and euthanasia. They challenge those working on all or some of these issues to maintain a cooperative spirit of peace, reconciliation, and respect in protecting the unprotected.

*NETWORK Catholic Social Justice Lobby* <<http://www.networklobby.org/>>

*NETWORK* is a progressive voice within the Catholic community that has been influencing Congress in favor of peace and justice for more than 30 years. Through lobbying and legislative advocacy, *NETWORK* strives to close the gap between rich and poor and to dismantle policies rooted in racism, greed and violence.

*Pax Christi USA* <<http://www.paxchristiusa.org/>>

*Pax Christi USA* advocates primacy of conscience, economic and social justice, and respect for creation. Pax Christi USA commits itself to peace education and, with the help of its bishop members, promotes the gospel imperative of peacemaking as a priority in the Catholic Church in the United States.

## Articles/Papers/Study Guide

Fr. Charles Curran, "U.S. Catholic Bishops and Abortion Legislation," *National Catholic Reporter*, 29 Nov. 2010,

<<http://ncronline.org/news/politics/us-catholic-bishops-and-abortion-legislation>>

This article is an abridged version of a chapter in Fr. Charles Curran's book, *The Social Mission of the U.S. Catholic Church: A Theological Perspective*. This text originally was given as a lecture sponsored by the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility at Southern Methodist University in Dallas Oct. 28, 2010.

Education for Justice, "Consistent Ethic of Life Backgrounder"

<[http://www.ihmsisters.org/www/media/justice\\_peace\\_and\\_sustainability\\_autogen/Consistent\\_Life\\_Backgrounder.pdf](http://www.ihmsisters.org/www/media/justice_peace_and_sustainability_autogen/Consistent_Life_Backgrounder.pdf)>

This resource provides an overview and background information on the Consistent Ethic of Life.

Greg Keller, "U.S. Fares Poorly in Child Welfare Survey," *Associated Press*, 2 September 2009

<<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2009/09/02-3>>

America has some of the industrial world's worst rates of infant mortality, teenage pregnancy and child poverty, even though it spends more per child than better-performing countries such as Switzerland, Japan and the Netherlands, a new survey indicates.

The New Zealand Conference of Catholic Bishops, "A Consistent Ethic of Life - Te Kahu-O-Te-Ora" 18 April 1997

<<http://www.catholicworker.org.nz/cg/CG05-AConsistentEthicOfLife.htm>>

The image of the cloak of life – Te Kahu O Te Ora – is the metaphor for the ideas the NZCCB letter embraces. Like the seamless garment, *te kahu* was a cape or cloak for Maori people of New Zealand. It was also the membrane enveloping a fetus and the veil that at times covered the head of newborn babies. This document, which remains generally unknown within the Church, formulates eight inter-related, pro-life component parts into one easily understandable moral teaching.

Kenneth Overberg, SJ, "A Consistent Ethic of Life," *Catholic Update*,

<<http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/ac0798.asp>>

This essay provides an explanation and analysis of the church's teachings on the Consistent Ethic of Life.

Pope Benedict XVI, "Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth) *The Vatican*, 29 of June 2009

<[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_enc\\_20090629\\_caritas-in-veritate\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate_en.html)>

In *Caritas in Veritate*, Pope Benedict XVI makes the connection between life ethics and social ethics, linking love, truth, and justice with poverty, hunger, greed, corruption and the necessity to transform economic and political institutions. Although this 2009 encyclical does not mention the consistent ethic of life by name, it delivers the message with conviction.

Pope John Paul II, "Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life), *The Vatican*, 25 March 1995,

<[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_25031995\\_evangelium-vitae\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae_en.html)>

This encyclical by Pope John Paul II expresses the position of the Catholic Church on the value and inviolability of human life.

Thomas J. Reese, SJ "Abortion Reduction: Rhetoric or Results" *On Faith*, September 2008

[http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/thomas\\_j\\_reese/2008/09/abortion\\_rhetoric\\_or\\_results.html?referrer=emailink](http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/thomas_j_reese/2008/09/abortion_rhetoric_or_results.html?referrer=emailink)

Former editor of the Catholic weekly magazine "America", Reese is a senior fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center. Reese argues that those wanting to do something about abortion must face the political reality that abortion is not likely to be made illegal in the United States. Granted that fact, then the political question has to change from "Who will make abortion illegal?" to "Who will enact programs that will reduce the number of abortions?"

Sojourners, "Abortion Reduction," *Sojourners*, June 2009

The cover story of this issue of *Sojourners* magazine probes the extremes of the abortion debate, and explores the new movement that bridges both positions to actually reduce abortion.

Joseph Wright, "Reducing Abortion in America: The Effect of Economic and Social Supports," *Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good*, November 2008, < [http://www.catholicsinalliance.org/files/CACG\\_Final.pdf](http://www.catholicsinalliance.org/files/CACG_Final.pdf)>

This groundbreaking study reveals specific ways to prevent and reduce the number of abortions in America. This is part of the ongoing efforts of the commitment of the *Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good* to promote a consistent culture of life rooted in human dignity.

