



# iVoteCatholic

Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers

The economy must serve the people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is not protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected – the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to a safe working environment and to organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

## Church Teaching Quotes

"...work is of fundamental importance to the fulfillment of the human being and to the development of society. Thus it must be organized and carried out with full respect for human dignity and must always serve the common good. At the same time, it is indispensable that people not allow themselves to be enslaved by work or idolize it, claiming to find in it the ultimate and definitive meaning of life." -Pope Benedict XVI, *Apostolic Exhortation on the Eucharist*, 74.

"The rights of workers, like all rights, are based on the nature of the human person and on his transcendent dignity. The Church's social Magisterium has seen fit to list some of these rights, in the hopes that they will be recognized in juridical systems: the right to a fair wage; the right to rest; the right to 'working environments and to manufacturing processes which are not harmful to the workers' physical health or to their moral integrity'" -*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 301.

## Scriptural Foundations

Genesis 2:2-3

God labors and rests

Genesis 2:15

Humans cultivate the earth

Isaiah 58:3

Do not drive laborers

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus uses wage law in parable

Luke 10:7

Laborer deserves pay