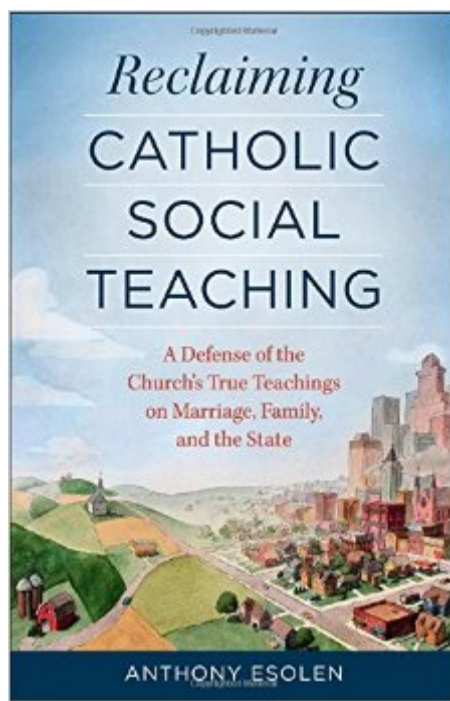


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# Reclaiming Catholic Social Teaching



## Synopsis

Many claim that Catholic Social Teaching implies the existence of a vast welfare state. In these pages, Anthony Esolen pulls back the curtain on these false philosophers, showing how they've undermined the authentic social teachings of the Church in order to neutralize the biggest threat to their plans for secularization the Catholic Church. With the voluminous writings of Pope Leo XIII as his guide, Esolen explains that Catholic Social Teaching isn't focused exclusively on serving the poor. Indeed, it offers us a rich treasure of insights about the nature of man, his eternal destiny, the sanctity of marriage, and the important role of the family in building a coherent and harmonious society. Catholic Social Teaching, explains Pope Leo, offers a unified worldview. What the Church says about the family is inextricable from what She says about the poor; and what She says about the Eucharist informs the essence of Her teachings on education, the arts and even government. You will step away from these pages with a profound understanding of the root causes of the ills that afflict our society, and, thanks to Pope Leo and Anthony Esolen, well equipped to propose compelling remedies for them. Only an authentically Catholic culture provides for a stable and virtuous society that allows Christians to do the real work that can unite rich and poor. We must reclaim Catholic Social Teaching if we are to transform our society into the ideal mapped out by Pope Leo: a land of sinners, yes, but one enriched with love of God and neighbor and sustained by the very heart of the Church's social teaching: the most holy Eucharist.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Anthony Esolen's Reclaiming Catholic Social Teaching is an inspiring, masterful exposition of the

amazing depth and wisdom of Catholic social teaching, especially as embodied in the writings of Pope Leo XIII. With chapters on issues like the nature of man, human liberty, marriage and the family, social life, the church, work, and the state, the subject matter could not possibly be more important, hitting every one of us right where we live every day of our lives. With the writing style of an English professor immersed in translation of the classics, it could hardly have been more engagingly written. Readers' jaws should stand agape when they see how perceptively Pope Leo saw in the late 19th century the potential implications of emerging trends in the decline of the influence of the family, the church, and of small clubs, guilds, and voluntary associations and the emergence of the encroaching powers of the State with a capital "S," (what the author calls the "Metastate"). Readers' minds and hearts should be informed and inflamed to put the Pope's prescriptions into practice to restore so many simple, yet profound things we've allowed to be swallowed up by the twin false gods of individualism and statism. The book paints grand themes and also provides plenty of specific details. Do you know, for example, the nine fundamental things Pope Leo declares society and owners owe to working people, or the four fundamental principles incumbent upon any state to promote the material and moral welfare of its citizens? Professor Esolen also includes many touching and relevant personal anecdotes along with several honorable mentions of my favorite theologian (St. Thomas Aquinas), and indeed, even some of one of my favorite classic movies (How Green Was My Valley).

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