



National Catholic Student Coalition

45 Lovett Avenue † Newark, DE 19711
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NCSC/RES/2010[3]

Resolution – High Unemployment Rates due to the Economic Downturn

Whereas,

- The National Catholic Student Coalition (NCSC) is committed to participating actively in the Roman Catholic Church and to representing U.S. Catholic students in national and international forums,
- The NCSC is a proud and active part of the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS-Pax Romana).

Affirming:

- That the NCSC as a Catholic student organization has the responsibility to address issues within the economy in the U.S. and around the world.
- As followers of Jesus Christ and participants in a powerful economy, Catholics in the United States are called to work for greater economic justice in the face of persistent poverty, growing income gaps, and increasing discussion of economic issues in the U.S. and around the world.

Acknowledging:

- The important role of campus ministry and Catholic teaching on economic life.
- The serious problems that students and young adults face as they enter this economy, which is filled with avariciousness, unscrupulous economic activities, moral indiscretions, and limited assistance from voluntary groups.
- That according to Pope John Paul II, the Catholic tradition calls for a “society of work, enterprise, and participation” which “is not directed against the market, but demands that the market be appropriately controlled by the forces of society and by the state to assure that the basic needs of the whole society are satisfied” (Centesimus Annus, 35). All of economic life should recognize the fact that we are all God’s children and members of one human family, called to exercise a clear priority for “the least among us.”
- Workers, owners, managers, stockholders, and consumers are moral agents in economic life. By our choices, initiative, creativity, and investment, we enhance or diminish economic opportunity, community life, and social justice.



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- The global economy has moral dimensions and human consequences. Decisions on investment, trade, aid, and development should protect human life and promote human rights, especially for those most in need wherever they might live on this globe. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.
- Society has a moral obligation, including governmental action where necessary, to assure opportunity, meet basic human needs, and pursue justice in economic life.
- A fundamental moral measure of any economy is how the poor and vulnerable are fairing.

Be it resolved that:

- We, the members of the NCSC express our position that all economic life should be shaped by moral principles. Economic choices and institutions must be judged by how they protect the life and dignity of the human person, support the family, and serve the common good. (USCCB)

We call upon universities to:

- Actively promote that all people have the right to economic initiative, to productive work, to just wages and benefits, to decent working conditions, as well as to organize and join unions or other associations.
- Pursue hosting forums on underemployment and facilitating campaigns of letters to government representatives.
- Actively promote that all people have the right to life and to secure the basic necessities of life (e.g. food, clothing, shelter, education, health care, safe environment, economic security).
- Utilize the statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops entitled *A Catholic Framework for Economic Life* in workshops, seminars, and forums to promote economic justice in our country and in our world.
- Incorporate the themes of Catholic social teaching to the sweeping changes being made towards the rebuilding of the struggling economy.



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[1] United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. (1996). A Catholic framework for economic life. Retrieved from <http://www.usccb.org/jphd/economiclife/pdf/a-catholic-framework-for-economic-life.pdf>

[2] United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. (2005). Themes of Catholic social teaching. Retrieved from <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml>