

FAIR TRADE, THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND THE ORIGIN OF OUR PRODUCTS

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom drawn from sacred scripture and 2000 years of discipleship. Catholic social teaching is about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society.

Here are the 7 major themes of Catholic Social Teaching:

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person (the sanctity of human life & inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching)
- Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- Human Rights are Protected and Responsibilities Met
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable (we are called to put the needs of the poor & vulnerable first)
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity (we are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological difference)
- Care for God's Creation (care for the earth is a requirement of our faith)

The Fair Trade Federation (FTF) is the trade association that strengthens and promotes North American organizations fully committed to Fair Trade. We purchase our products through organizations belonging to this association.

What is fair trade? As defined by the FTF: (note the similarities to the above 7 themes)

Fair trade is a system of exchange that seeks to create greater equity and partnership in international trading system by:

- Creating Opportunities for Economically and Socially Marginalized Producers
- Developing Transparent and Accountable Relationships
- Building Capacity
- Promoting Fair Trade
- Paying Promptly and Fairly
- Supporting Safe and Empowering Working Conditions
- Ensuring the Rights of Children
- Cultivating Environmental Stewardship
- Respecting Cultural Identity

By approaching development as a whole process (rather than just a fair price), fair trade organizations cultivate partnerships with their suppliers (for coffee, ours is a cooperative in the Dominican Republic- the grower will receive \$2.84 for each bag sold) and contribute to the development of communities. Fair trade is not about charity; it uses a fairer system of exchange to empower producers and to create sustainable, positive change.

What does that really mean?

Fair Trade looks to create tremendous, positive, and long-term **impact** for artisans and farmers while delivering **great products** to the public.