Catholic Social Teaching

My name is Ryan Paauwe and I attend Holy Family Church. This spring I, along with 6 other kids from our youth group will be going on a mission trip to Guatemala. We will be learning all about the Mayan culture while also focusing on solidarity and gaining dignity, self-respect, and developing as individuals as we participate in various projects such as housing construction, coffee production, education, stove construction, clinical care, and health promotion. Each week at youth group we have been focusing on the lessons that we as Catholics, are taught to live by. The first week I talked about Catholic Social Teachings, these are the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic Social Tradition. They include life and dignity of the human person, the call to family, community, and participation, the rights and responsibilities we have as Catholics, options for the poor and vulnerable, the dignity of work and the rights of workers, solidarity, and caring for God’s creations. As we look at all of these topics before our trip, we will begin to understand how important it is to follow God’s will, and how this trip will drive us to grow in our faith but also as individuals.