

St. Thomas More's Catholic Principles

St. Thomas More was a man who spread the principles of the Catholic Church in many ways. Many of these principles can help solve the economic and social justice issues of today. These principles include: wisdom, giving to the poor, community service, lovingness, and many others. If followed correctly, these guidelines could end many problems in today's world. Giving to the poor and community service could help fix the social justice issues, while modesty and charity could help fix the economy. Thomas More was a great man, who loved his faith so much that he was martyred and became a saint.

St. Thomas More was born in the year 1478. He was thinking about becoming a monk for a very long time, but he chose not to. He then married and became a diplomat. He showed his principle of scholarship by making sure that all of his daughters were educated and could speak Latin and Greek. He then wrote the book *Utopia*. In this book, Thomas More described a world in which everyone shared a faith in God, and a love and respect for one another. Because of this book, he became a very famous leader of the humanist movement.

Because of his great service as a politician and public servant, King Henry VIII made Thomas More Lord Chancellor of England. In response to Martin Luther's many outbursts against the Catholic Church, Thomas helped King Henry write books that debated with Luther's teachings. Later on, Henry decided to divorce his wife Catherine and to marry someone else, because of Catherine's infertility. However, since the Catholic Church does not believe in

divorce, King Henry asked the Pope to record that he had not been married at all. The Pope refused, and so Henry founded his own church, the Church of England. Henry soon demanded a pledge of allegiance to his new church. Thomas refused, and was later executed. In the year 1935, Thomas More became a saint. June 22 is his feast day.

One of St. Thomas More's many principles is scholarship. He demonstrated his love of scholarship by making sure that his daughters were educated, which was very uncommon for the time. If everyone in the world had a proper education, people would make much better decisions. There would be a better understanding and love for different people. There would be fewer wars, less conflicts, and more demonstration of respect for one another.

Another principle of St. Thomas More is lovingness. If everyone cared for each other there would be no racism and hate. Killing would be a thing of the past. There would be a greater understanding of those in need, and thus, a greater action to help them. This principle is linked to charity because that the response given to those in need because of caring involves donating your time and money to help them.

Modesty and charity are principles of St. Thomas More. Modesty would help fix the economy, as people would not waste money they need on pointless items simply to look important. Expensive electronics, clothes, and cars are not necessary and can damage the environment. It should not matter what you look like or what you own, people should treat a poor person the same as a rich person. Charity would help fix social justice issues because it giving to those in need. Doing this is very important. For an example, donating to an

organization that helps children diagnosed with Autism is better for society than buying a new set of designer clothes.

Community service is a principle St. Thomas More demonstrated. When you perform community service, the benefactor of your work is someone else. Thomas More showed his value for community service when he worked as a public speaker. He donated his time to help make society better. We can do this by working at homeless shelters, helping out at assisted living facilities, and by assisting those who need our help at the immediate moment. It would help the social justice issues of today, as people would be treated equal, and because people in need would not just be recognized, but helped as well.

In conclusion, St. Thomas More spread many Catholic principles that could help fix many problems in the world today. He has lived a life of many good principles, such as community service, charity, and modesty. These Catholic principles can help fix many of the world's problems today. If everyone can learn to follow these guidelines, the world will be much better, just like St. Thomas More's book *Utopia*.