You are about to begin Part III of Catholic Social Thought: Justice in a Global Context. In the next three units of the course, you will be introduced to the three additional themes of human rights, peace, and the care of creation. Each of these is an area where CST has made important and unique contributions to problems that reach well beyond the context of the Church itself.

With his 1963 encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, Pope John XXIII embraced the idea of human rights and constructed a uniquely Catholic theory of human rights. This document contains a broad list of human rights, both civil-political (such as the right to form associations and the right to participate in government) and socio-economic (such as the right to a fair wage and the right to food, shelter, and adequate healthcare). In CST, human rights are always connected with duties. Thus, if we speak to a right to employment, for example, we would recognize a corresponding duty to work, and to seek work.

In regards to peace, CST builds on an enormous tradition of thought that spans the entire Christian tradition. In the book of John, Jesus offers his disciples an invaluable gift: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid” (John 14:27). As the spiritual descendants of these disciples, we too inherit the gift of Christ’s peace, and it is our responsibility to share it out to the world. CST, by focusing on the relationship between peace and justice, offers content for how to build more just and peaceful societies.

Care for creation is a theme of CST that is gaining more and more traction since Pope Francis I released his social encyclical *Laudato Si’* (2015) on how Christian theology can speak to ecological degradation and climate change. Pope Francis calls on all the people of the planet to share in the responsibility to address the ecological crisis that we face.

In the final unit, you will have the opportunity to think together with your peers about how to enact CST in your own local contexts. In what ways do your own communities cry out for greater justice, solidarity, or attention to human rights? How can you work with your communities to maintain peace, care for creation, honor the dignity of the human person, and work toward the common good?