



CATHOLIC  
SOCIAL TEACHING  
IN ACTION

## NEWS AND UPDATES



*For everything there is a season, and a time for every activity under  
heaven ... a time to plant, and a time to harvest. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 (NLT)*

## ANNOUNCING NEW CAPP MENTORING INITIATIVE

**Dear CAPP Members and Friends,**

CAPP-USA is pleased to report that it has been invited to participate in a new mentoring program for high school students, initiated by and under the guidance of the Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The ultimate goal of this program is for local business leaders and students -- with mentoring by CAPP members -- to make materially present Catholic social teaching in action within the local community --taking the theory of CST and working to put it into concrete action.

The program had its initiation at the recent Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Business Forum Mass and Brunch for Business and Professional Leaders held on February 9th at Fairfield University. Members of the business community, catholic high school students, their families and high school facilitators, CAPP members and the Fairfield University community gathered to participate at the joyful Liturgy celebrated by Bishop Caggiano together with associate diocesan and Fairfield University clergy. The student Music Ministry, high school and college-student Ministers of Song, Lectors and Leaders of the Prayers of the Faithful contributed to the Spirit filled celebration.



Bishop Caggiano in his Homily shared that we are "living bricks" held together by mortar that is divine, "the Holy Spirit in our midst." He said that every person, made in the image and likeness of God, is bound together in the community that they form -- "that community also has mortar, that which links us together in our common good, in our common will." He pointed out that currently, "that mortar is beginning to fall apart.." and "... our society is fragmenting.." due to polarization and division. The Bishop emphasized that as believers we come to recognize that the mortar "that should hold humanity together is not something but is Someone" -- Jesus our Redeemer, who has given us the Good News that we are to share with the world. Echoing the words of Jesus, Bishop Caggiano said, "You are the light of the world." .. "And that means we are to bring the light of Truth to wherever the mortar that holds us together is fraying, you are not only to enlighten minds but also to enlighten hearts."

Mr. Robert Nalewajek, Executive Vice President of CAPP, and former President, was the Guest Speaker at the Brunch reception. He said, "It is our responsibility to change the world through Catholic Social Teaching..and..Catholic social teaching is quite useful as a guide for living in and creating a civil society. It is first and foremost Christian teaching." Quoting St. John Paul II, he shared, "*It proclaims God in His mystery of salvation in Christ to every human being and for that very reason reveals man to Himself.*"



Mr. Nalewajek asked the assembly—"What do we need to do?" He suggested, "It is our special task to order and throw light upon all the affairs of the world in line with the teachings of Jesus Christ...that is our unique and special mission."

The Brunch reception was a strategic step in the implementation of the mentoring program. Small groups of students were seated at tables together with facilitators, CAPP members and business community attendees. Students were given reading material on Catholic Social Teaching prior to the event and were asked to come prepared with questions. As seen from the photo images, lively conversations did take place. Sign-up cards were placed at each table for those attendees interested in participating in the mentoring program.



The purpose of the Catholic Business Forum is threefold: educational-the integration of Catholic social teaching and business; formative-Catholic social teaching in action; and student-mentoring by members of the CAPP community.

**Post-event mentoring follow-up plans:**

Facilitators from each school will work with CAPP to assign a mentor to their group.

Students will be encouraged to meet with their facilitator and mentor to discuss potential projects that could be proposed based on what they have learned from reviewing CST theory and their observation of and reflection on identified community needs. If the facilitator believes a particular project has merit and would like to move forward with implementation, there may be an opportunity for the students to apply to Foundations in Faith for a grant of up to \$5,000 to help fund their project.

We are grateful for Bishop Caggiano's invitation, and it is an honor to work with the diocesan high school students and facilitators on this new initiative.

Sincerely,

Fred Fakharzadeh  
President, CAPP-USA

[Mr. Nalewajek's slide presentation can be downloaded here.](#)

[Review complete article on Feb. 9 Catholic Business Forum event in Fairfield County Catholic here](#)

*All Photos (by [Amy Mortensen](#)) and quotes (from "Fairfield County Catholic" Feb. 9 article) used with permission.*