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Level 1 Religious Studies RAS 2023

91919 Demonstrate understanding of a religious or spiritual community's perspective on an issue

EXEMPLAR

Excellence

TOTAL 08

WORK – QUESTION 1.

Within the religion of Catholicism, Maia would be allowed to work on this holy day as she is expressing the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) of solidarity. Maia would be working to support herself while recognising her brothers and sisters of the local community and actively working for their good. The building of these Whakawhanaungatanga (relationships) allows us to feel connected to humanity and ensures us that we need to understand what life is like in the perspective of others that differ from us. By Maia working this holy day she is assuring God that she wants to build a relationship with the locals that surround her and continue to spread his word in hopes to understand others in a deeper perspective. Religious principals within the Catholic Faith include using the gifts God have made for us to work to make the world a better place, recognising the rights of others within the workplace and honouring their dignity, all while also ensuring everyone is treated with equality and equity, with fair pay and righteous working conditions. These principals inform our perspective on the issue as it is in our faith to believe in everyone and treat them morally with right and just.

Poverty is a growing issue within New Zealand which results in families struggling due to low living wage or no home. Maia may need to be working to help support her family just like many children do today due to the increasing poverty rates globally. According to the Borgon Project, 1 billion children out of the 2.2 billion on earth, live in poverty. 71% of the world's population are struggling to stand within the growing economy as they are living off of low-income whilst trying to care for their families. These families are relatively living off \$10 per day conditions. The Catholic church would allow Maia to work on this holy day if she is helping others and illustrating the CSTs in the workplace as many employees are commonly mistreated. The working conditions in New Zealand are significantly better than countries overseas such as China as they hire staff dominantly from India, Bangladesh, Japan, and Indonesia. This does not express the CST of human dignity as they pay their workers around \$0.20 per day with many of the employees being underage children (Child labour). These workers are dominantly placed in the making of fashion which is a growing industry increasing each year. This issue is known as fast fashion. The conditions the workers are placed in are dense, dirty, and unsanitary, all while they get paid substantially under the average living wage. This act goes against the principal of human dignity. Human dignity is about understanding that everyone around us is made in God's image and is to be treated equally. Everyone has an innate human dignity which should not, and will not, be taken away. This growing issue of fast fashion does not show right and just. It does not show distributive justice; and it definitely does not show human dignity.

Rerum Novarum – Encyclical of Pope Leo XII on capital and labour states that “To misuse men as though they were things in pursuit of gain, or to value them solely for their physical powers – that is truly shameful and inhuman.” This quote helps show that the Catholic principals do not align with the misuse of the CST of human dignity. As Catholic's we believe that all people that differ from us and others deserve to be treated as equals and not live in inhuman conditions. Without a job there is no possibility of earning a fixed income therefore resulting in poverty and many of the world's population living on the streets of their country. Whereas those that get underpaid and work in inhuman living conditions believe as though that is the job they were suited for therefore they do not leave. This is why instead of fixing their wages, we need to fix their working environment. In Gaudium Et Spes it's stated by Pope Paul VI on December 7th, 1965, that “Insults to our human dignity such as subhuman living conditions, slavery, disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons... they're a supreme dishonour to the creator.” This quote helps illustrates why we believe in these principals. It is not

right and just. Everyone on this earth is deserving of equal treatment and everyone is worth being treated with the common good; respecting rights and responsibilities of all.

The Catholic Church believes that vulnerable people such as those living in poverty deserve to be treated with the CST of the Preferential Option for the Poor and vulnerable. This means we are compelled to think first of those around us in need and in vulnerable positions. We believe that the Lord our God stands with us through tough times and supports us no matter our condition. Colossians 3:23-24 states, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Work was made for us; we were not made for work. The Genesis stories throughout the bible illustrate that the Lord worked in supporting and guiding his people to faith which is why we need to work for the Lord and not always break the physical reward. We work for solidarity while also supporting our needs.

Today, I am a student at [REDACTED], and I desire to follow our CSTs and religious principals throughout my school and workplace environments. As a local schoolgirl of Hawkes Bay, I have experienced first-hand the damage of Cyclone Gabrielle and the devastation it has wreaked throughout the region. Thousands of jobs were lost as well as homes, resulting in struggling families within the local community that surround me. As a school, we have done what we can to use the CSTs as a guide on how we can support those in times of vulnerability. As students, many of us have gained part-time jobs to allow our families extra support even though it can be a struggle juggling work, school, curricular activities etc. Within the school, at the end of the year we do a 'giving tree' where students bring in gifts for all ages whether it be food, toys, or activities so we can allow others a bit of cheer when it comes to the busy season of Christmas. Everyone is worthy of celebrating the birth of our Lord. The school also allows the giving of free uniform and food to the students who need it as no one is worth being untreated especially when they are not at fault. In conclusion, Maia would be allowed to work on a holy day as she is illustrating what us Catholics show faith in, our principals/morals, our traditions. She is showing the gift of working with God's creation and expressing the CSTs and building relationships with those around her, showing solidarity.

Excellence

Subject: Religious Studies

Standard: 91919

Total score: 08

Q	Grade score	Marker commentary
One	E8	The candidate provided clear and detailed ethical reasoning, and showed some of the implications of that thinking in the development of their answer. Evidence from religious tradition was relevant and detailed.