



Sponsorship Institute 2019: Mergers, Acquisitions and the Common Good

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**Promote and
Defend Human
Dignity**

**Attend to the
Whole Person**

**Care for Poor
and Vulnerable
Persons**

**Promote the
Common Good**



**A Shared Statement
of Identity for the
Catholic Health Ministry**

**Act on Behalf
of Justice**

**Steward
Resources**

**Act in
Communion
with the
Church**



Catholic Social Teaching and the Common Good

- The common good is fundamental to CST, but is foreign to American culture
- It is rooted in our notion of justice (not transactional but relational) and solidarity
- It is a form of socialism but not totalitarianism
- In the end, it is God's own self.

- # 1
- The common good is to the group as human dignity is to the person
 - “Those things we all need together, but which none of us can achieve on our own”

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A set of conditions “which allow people, either as groups or individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily...it concerns **respect for the person as such; the social well-being of the group; and peace.**”

Catechism, #1906

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- **The promotion of all the goods necessary for integral human development in the organization in such a way to respect the proper ordering of those goods.** *Miller & McCann*
- **Stakeholders rather than shareholders**

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Common Good in America

Individualistic Americans fear that institutions impinge on their freedom. For just this reason, the classic liberal view held that institutions ought to be as far as possible a neutral mechanism for individuals to use to attain their separate ends...

This view has led us to think of institutions as an efficient or inefficient mechanism, like the DMV, that we learn to use for our own purposes, or as malevolent 'bureaucracies' that may crush us under their impersonal wheels

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Common Good in America

“There is an absence in this country of a solid common good tradition...The thought that we might have to ration health care in the name of the common good—even to ensure that others get a fair share—is objectionable to most Americans, and our politicians have not dared to talk about it.”

(Daniel Callahan, “America’s Blind Spot: Health Care and the Common Good” [*Commonweal*, Oct 9, 2009].)

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Is the common good possible?

“The pluralism of the contemporary landscape makes it impossible to envision a social good on which all can agree.

This is the intellectual and theoretical challenge to the common good today: diversity of visions of the good life makes it difficult or even impossible to attain a shared vision of the common good.”

➤ David Hollenbach, SJ

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The common good

Socialism	Common good
State ownership	Private ownership and profit
Individuals sacrificed for whole	Individual as part of whole
Minimal participation	Broad participation (subsidiarity)
Centralized government; authority at top	Distributed authority; diffuse responsibility
Political action curtailed	Encourage political involvement

