

## **SOCIETY OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL SCIENTISTS MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA**

The criteria for membership in the Society shall be the following (from the Society's By-Laws):

(1) fidelity to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church in all it teaches including, and especially, her social teachings--always distinguishing between positions asserted in the social encyclicals which are morally obligatory and those which are not and allowing for legitimate differences in views about their application--and teachings on conjugal morality and family life, such as the important encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, and acceptance of Vatican Council II; (2) reasonable knowledge of and interest in deepening one's understanding of the Church's social teachings; (3) the minimum of an earned advanced degree (e.g., M.A., J.D.), except that full-time graduate students who are working toward a master's degree (or equivalent) and secure the sponsorship of a current regular or associate member of the Society are eligible for student membership; and 4) support for the purpose of the Society (as stated in Article Two of its Constitution):

The purpose of this organization is to bring Catholic scholars, professors, teachers, practitioners and the others in the social sciences and related disciplines into association to produce objective knowledge and analysis about the political, social, and economic orders which can assist the Catholic Church in fulfilling her various apostolic efforts, and which can bring the Church's social and other teaching and the Natural Law to bear on addressing the challenges and problems of modern culture. The Society seeks to promote scholarly efforts which are oriented to helping rebuild the culture according to the principles of the papal social encyclicals (with justice and charity as foremost considerations), securing protection for the dignity and rights of the Christian family and of all innocent human life (from fertilization until natural death), and furthering respect for the legitimate rights and duties of the human person.

Non-Catholics who are knowledgeable about and support the Church's teachings and the purpose of the Society may become special associate members of the Society (entitled to all the rights and privileges of regular members, except for holding a national office, serving as president or executive head of a local chapter, serving as chairman of a disciplinary or special interest section, and sitting on the national Board of Directors), but, if their consciences do not permit, will not be expected to affirm fidelity to the Magisterium.

All applicants, who are not known about by the Membership Committee and are not specifically invited to join the Society, will be required to submit a vita or other personal information in order to demonstrate, by their academic background, publications/writings, activity, or other service, that they meet the above criteria and are of the categories of people eligible to be members of the Society, as specified in the above statement of the Society's purpose from Article Two of its Constitution. They will also be required to provide the names of at least two present members of the Society who can be approached by the Membership Committee as references. If the latter is not possible, the Membership Committee may waive the requirement. Signing the statement on the application form affirming commitment to the Church's teachings does not preclude a further inquiry into this question by the Membership Committee through careful consideration of the above information, materials, and submissions, and further communication with the applicant. The decision of the Membership Committee regarding the acceptance of any application shall be final.