



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

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MAIN EXAMINATION

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2019 TRIMESTER

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

REGULAR PROGRAMME

MRS 517: CATHOLIC SOCIAL DOCTRINES IN EAST AFRICAN CONTEXT

Date: DECEMBER 2019

Duration: 3 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer THREE Questions

- Q1. a) In the first part of the 20th century, Catholic social teaching inspired by Pope Leo's famous 1891 Encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*, was the object of intense interest and study in the industrialized countries of Europe and North America. The social encyclicals energized Catholics to work for societal change by founding and acting through Catholic Milieu movements. What were the main reasons for the loss of appeal of Catholic social teaching in the early part of the 21st Century
(10 Marks).
- b) Briefly discuss the Biblical background of the Catholic Social Doctrine
(10 Marks).
- Q2. The miraculous triumph of early Christianity was due in large measure to a radical sense of community. The first Christians put into practice their conviction about the proper use of material possessions by their impressive and practical way of aiding the needy. Discuss the 5 themes which were of paramount importance to Christians in the patristic age
(20 Marks).
- Q3. "If there is a lack of respect for the right to life and to a natural death, if human conception, pregnancy and birth are made artificial, if human embryos are sacrificed to research, the conscience of society ends up losing the concept of

human ecology and, along with it, that of environmental ecology. It is contradictory to insist that future generations respect the natural environment when our educational systems and laws do not help them to respect themselves.” (*Caritas in Veritate* no. 51). Why has the Church teaching clearly made objections to In Vitro Fertilization? **(20 Marks).**

Q4. Pope Leo XIII’s Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* published in 1891 is a very important document and milestone in the history of the social teaching of the church. Discuss the essential teaching of this document. **(20 Marks).**

Q5. There are about ten major themes or catalysts around which Catholic social teaching is organized. Briefly explain these basic tenets of Catholic social teaching **(20 Marks).**

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