A Catholic Social Studies Project: A Call for Contributors

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A review of social studies and history resources now being used in Roman Catholic schools suggests that these materials, for the most part having been developed for use in the public system, sadly neglect the historical contributions and perspectives of Roman Catholicism in their make-up. For example, none of the textbooks surveyed offered any substantive appreciation of the positive aspects of Catholic influence on American life. Nor do these sources acknowledge, in any appreciable way, the importance that the life of Jesus of Nazareth has had on world history. The use of resources that neglect the facts of history with respect to Christianity in general, and Roman Catholicism in particular, make such works contributing rather than remedial agents in the across-the-board marginalization of Catholic history and culture now maturing in the larger secular society.

A group of Catholic educators, including historians, from across Canada and the United States, working in conjunction with the Society of Catholic Social Scientists, has organized a Catholic Social Studies Project to identify these areas of weakness in teaching materials and to develop supplementary and primary instructional resources that treat fairly the Catholic contributions and perspectives. We are looking for teachers and historians who would like to contribute to this important effort.