

Catholic Social Work Models for the Future:
From Social Worker to Catholic Social Servant?

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This article examines the transformation of the field of social work over the past century, noting its increasing and almost total secularist viewpoint at this juncture, as well as its overall failure to provide genuine help to those it so laudably seeks to serve. A call for strong reform is made, using the concept of a Catholic social servant as a viable and very desirable alternative and competitor to the present model. The article makes use of (among other sources) the social encyclicals to make the case for social work to be something much more than it has become. The best of social work wisdom can be brought into a model based on Catholic social and moral teaching, producing a field ordered by Truth and filled with Divine mercy, thus well equipped to serve the poor and suffering more effectively -- in short, a new social work profession for the New Springtime foreseen by Pope John Paul II.