

## **SUBSIDIARITY: KEY PRINCIPLE FOR SOCIAL POLICY**

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One of the key principles of Catholic social thought is known as the principle of subsidiarity. This tenet holds that nothing should be done by a larger and more complex organization which can be done as well by a smaller and simpler organization. In other words, any activity which can be performed by a more decentralized entity should be. This principle is a bulwark of limited government and personal freedom. It conflicts with the passion for centralization and bureaucracy characteristic of the Welfare State.

<http://www.acton.org/pub/religion-liberty/volume-6-number-4/principle-subsidiarity>