

Imagining the Vatican as a Social Entrepreneurship Business Case Study
Institutional Change through the lens of Catholic Social Thought

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Abstract

The Vatican City State (VCS) is a uniquely religious, governmental, and commercial institution. Across its operations in Rome and globally, the VCS operates various lines of business in service of its multifaceted mission. Increasingly, the management of the VCS provides opportunities for imagining how Catholic Social Thought (CST) might be applied in order to inspire and achieve best practices for management of Church operations in Rome and across vastly diverse dioceses and social context settings.

The paper imagines the VCS as an ethical business school laboratory setting for social entrepreneurship. Examining major lines of business operations at the VCS, the paper contextualizes each operation as a reflection of CST values, via dashboards of accountability, so that Vatican managers can modernize and improve VCS operations' efficiency, congruency and overall impacts on economic, environmental and social justice issues.