A Catholic Model for Transformative Engagement

The See – Judge – Act model, or process, was created by Cardinal Joseph Cardijn.

"In order to act well, it is necessary to see and judge well."
Joseph Cardijn 1896

“Our great task is to unite ourselves with all men of good will to build a more human world together based on 'truth, justice, liberty and love.”

Using the process encourages us to take time out from our busy lives to truly see our lives and the world around us, to judge, or reflect deeply in light of our faith on what is happening and where we are, and then to take action, based on our reflection, to live our gospel values.

The model:

- Is inductive as it begins with “what is?” rather than a deductive (principles) model of social engagement. In this it was, and is a prophetic model for the Catholic social justice tradition.

- Is liberating because it begins with humanity and the world – what is – rather than what ought to be.

- Allows one to operate from both a faith and a civic perspective ie to be authentically Christian (or Muslim or ...) and authentically Australian.

The social message of the Gospel must not be considered a theory, but above all else a basis and a motivation for action.... Today more than ever, the Church is aware that her social message will gain credibility more immediately from the witness of actions than as a result of its internal logic and consistency.

Pope John Paul II, The Hundredth Year, 1991