

LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

“Love One Another”

Building Bridges of Solidarity

In Parts 1 and 2 of this series, we explored our social justice roots and learned that we as believers are sent to renew the earth embracing that heritage. We conclude our three-part series with ways to embrace our Catholic social mission.

Part 3: Key Elements for Parish Social Ministries

The following from the US Bishops provides a guide for integrating social justice and peacemaking into our personal and parish lives.

- **Anchor Social Ministry: Prayer and Worship.** “In prayer, we find the reasons, the strength, and the call to follow Jesus in the ways of charity, justice, and peace.” Pray and discern how well we are conforming our lives to Our Lord’s mission.
- **Share the Message: Preaching and Education.** “Week after week, day after day, the lectionary calls the community to reflect on the scriptural message of justice and peace.” Listen for it, celebrate it, and spread the word about our social justice heritage incorporating it into parish educational efforts.
- **Support the "Salt of the Earth": Family, Work, Citizenship.** Live our faith in the world placing our gifts at the service of others. Seek the common good, respect all human life, and promote dignity for all humankind.
- **Serve the “Least of These”: Outreach and Charity.** “Serve those in need and change the structures that deny people their dignity and rights as children of God. Service and action, charity and justice are complementary....Neither alone is sufficient; both are essential signs of the gospel at work.”
- **Advocate for Justice: Legislative Action.** Listen and respond to the cry of those at risk, marginalized and oppressed including vulnerable children—born and unborn, those who suffer discrimination and injustice, those without food, health care or housing, and our suffering planet. Advocate for change.
- **Create Community: Organize for Justice.** Collaborate within the parish, with other parishes, other faith traditions and organizing groups to engage in authentic relationships and build a sense of community. Church-based and community organizations can make an important “difference on housing, crime, education, and economic issues in local communities.”
- **Build Solidarity: Beyond Parish Boundaries.** Bear witness to the most important aspect of Catholic social teaching: that we are one family motivating us to overcome barriers of “race, religion, ethnicity, gender, economic status, and nationality. We are one in Christ Jesus beyond our differences and boundaries. Parishes need to be bridge-builders, reminding us that we are part of a Universal Church with ties of faith and humanity to sisters and brothers all over the world.”



Words of Wisdom from Pope Francis

“The Way of the Cross alone defeats sin, evil and death... It is the way of hope, the way of the future.”

-Way of the Cross, July 2016



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Papacy: 3/13/2013 -

Image courtesy of Korea.net

WATCH



Can we practice Catholic Social Teaching in our everyday lives?

Yes. As this

video shows, we begin by seeing everyday opportunities to live what we believe.

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READ



During August 2021 Pope Francis prayed that our church may receive the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.”

Read and watch: **“A Church On The Way”.**

[Read now...](#)

REFLECT



How clearly and consistently do we hear the cry for justice?

Here’s an easy and enlightening way to help you reflect on your answer.

[Explore now...](#)