

THE IMMACULATA

LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

“Love One Another”

Welcome to the First Issue of “Love One Another”

In Micah 6:8 the prophet tells us what the Lord requires, “Only to do justice, and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.” This concise statement is the heart of Catholic social thought. Each week the Life, Peace and Justice Ministries will meet you in this space to share information about our Catholic social roots, reflect on the social mission of our Church, bear witness to our suffering world and discern Christian ways to proceed. We will share stories, information and insights via short articles, inspirational words of wisdom, and resources to help our parish see where love is needed, discern what is right, and act as Christ would.

Jesus told us we are the salt of the earth and light of the world, sending us to enhance the lives of those in need and shine the Light of Love on those at the margins. So we begin with a three-part series of articles on the social mission of the Catholic Church. The articles draw lessons from a document by our United States Conference of Catholic Bishops entitled *Communities of Salt & Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*.

What is Our Social Mission?

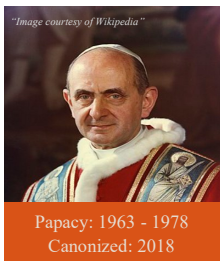
Our social mission as Catholics is to hear and respond to the call of those in need, to work for justice and peace. This is not a new message. It’s found throughout scripture, especially in the Hebrew prophets, and the life and words of Jesus. “In the gospel according to Luke, Jesus began his public life by reading a passage from Isaiah that introduced his ministry and the mission of every parish. The parish must proclaim the transcendent message of the gospel and help:

- bring ‘good news to the poor’ in a society where millions lack the necessities of life;
- bring ‘liberty to captives’ when so many are enslaved by poverty, addiction, ignorance, discrimination, violence, or disabling conditions;
- bring ‘new sight to the blind’ in a culture where the excessive pursuit of power or pleasure can spiritually blind us to the dignity and rights of others; and
- ‘set the downtrodden free’ in communities where crime, racism, family disintegration, and economic and moral forces leave people without real hope.”

Our bishops tell us that parishes are communities of faith, action, and hope. “They are where the gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth.” As Catholics, we are sent not only to *proclaim* the Gospel of Jesus, but to *live it*. We are “to ‘hunger and thirst for justice,’ and to be ‘peacemakers’ in our own communities.”

“The pursuit of justice and peace is an essential part of what makes a parish Catholic.”

Next week we will continue with Part 2 in our series, “The Roots of Parish Social Mission.”



Wisdom from Pope Paul VI

“Justice will bring about Peace...
If you want Peace, work for Justice”.

Celebration of The Day of Peace, January 1, 1972



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WATCH



What does it mean when Jesus describes his disciples as the “salt of

the earth” and “light of the world”? In this video Fr. Joseph Mary, a Capuchin Franciscan, explains.

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READ



Communities of Salt & Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the

Parish, a publication of our US Bishops, promotes awareness of Catholic social teaching and living the call to love God and neighbor.

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EXPLORE



Does the call to put Two Feet of Love in Action resonate with you? Learn

more by exploring resources created by the USCCB Office of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

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