

# Catholic Social Teaching *ASSESSMENT TOOL* *and the Parish*

## LITURGY AND PUBLIC PRAYER

YES NO

- The celebration of Sunday liturgy is done in such a way that the ongoing prayer of the church for peace and justice is continually before us and grows deep in our hearts.
- The full complement of liturgical ministers within Sunday Eucharist is representative in age, race and gender of the parish community, and becomes for us an Epiphany of God's reign.
- Our Sunday liturgy centers us, defines us and rehearses us in the way of God's kingdom of life, peace, justice, truth, and love.
- Our parish celebration of Advent allows us to pray and reflect on themes of hope, respecting life, justice and peace in the world.
- Our celebration of Christmas, the mystery of the incarnation, challenges us to respect the life and dignity of all human persons and to recognize the presence of Christ in our world today.
- Our parish celebration of Lent places before us the challenge of ongoing conversion of heart.
- The general intercessions (prayers of the faithful) include Catholic social teaching themes.
- Homilists do not hesitate to challenge the assembly with their Christian responsibility to bring about a more peaceful and just society.
- Inserts from the *Pastoral on Sundays* or other pertinent church documents on social justice, are placed in the bulletin to tie in with the liturgy and readings.
- Parish celebrations incorporate the cultural and racial diversity of the community.
- Care is taken that all people feel welcomed at parish liturgies, especially visitors, minorities, the poor, persons with disabilities and those who are alone.
- The music used in liturgy reflects the theme of a servant church.
- Eucharistic ministers take communion to the sick and homebound.
- The church building and adjacent public buildings are accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

YES NO LITURGY/PRAAYER continued

[ ] [ ] Inclusive language is used in homilies and in the prayers of the faithful.

Our parish observes these days with prayer:

[ ] [ ] World Day of Peace - January 1

[ ] [ ] Martin Luther King Day - Racial Justice

[ ] [ ] Earth Day - Ecological Awareness

[ ] [ ] Mothers Day/Fathers Day - Family as Teacher of Justice

[ ] [ ] Memorial Day - Peace

[ ] [ ] July 4th - Liberty and Justice For All

[ ] [ ] Respect Life Sunday - Consistent Ethic of Life

[ ] [ ] Mission Sunday - Global Awareness

[ ] [ ] Thanksgiving - Local and Global Hunger and Homelessness



## FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION

YES NO

The parish offers at least one adult educational event each year concerning some aspect of Catholic Social Teaching.

Programs open to all adult parishioners have been presented during the last five years in the following areas of Catholic Social Teaching:

- Respect Life and consistent ethic of life.
- Economics, work and worker rights
- Human rights
- Peace and international justice
- Faithful citizenship and political responsibility
- Society's responsibility to the poor and vulnerable
- Stewardship of creation
- Racial justice
- Immigrant rights

Study guides on Catholic Social Teaching are used in parish:

- RENEW groups
- Scripture study groups
- RCIA
- Small faith communities.

Efforts promoted by the Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Office and Commission and/or regional parish social justice collaborative efforts, such as the Greater Cincinnati Social Action Collaborative, Dayton Weavers of Justice, Springfield Social Action Commission, and Catholic Rural Life Conferences of the St. Marys/Sidney and St. Martin Deaneries:

- are promoted in the parish bulletin or newsletter
- are sponsored by the parish.

YES NO EDUCATION continued

Inclusive language is used and understood by all involved in the educational process.

An in-service program is offered every two or three years to teachers in an area of Catholic Social Teaching.

Parish School of Religion

School

Youth

A respect for all life and creation is incorporated into the curriculum.

Parish School of Religion

School

Youth

The religion curriculum incorporates Catholic Social Teaching in a way appropriate for the particular age group.

Parish School of Religion

School

Youth

Prayers used in the classroom often speak to themes of Catholic Social Teaching, life, dignity and the integrity of creation.

Parish School of Religion

School

Youth

Parish youngsters are invited to participate in service and advocacy projects.

Parish School of Religion

School

Youth

Students have opportunities to learn about/experience our multicultural world.

Parish School of Religion

School

Youth



## STEWARDSHIP OF PARISH RESOURCES: FINANCE, FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, AND HUMAN RESOURCES

YES NO

The parish budget is recognized as a moral document which reflects the parish's priorities.

Generosity with the Catholic Relief Services (2nd Sunday after Easter), Catholic Campaign for Human Development (Nov.), Respect Life (1st Sunday in Oct.), Mission (2nd last Sunday in Oct.), Catholic Ministries Appeal (Mar.), and the Retirement Collection for Women and Men Religious (2nd Sunday in Dec.) is encouraged from the pulpit.

CRS' Operation Rice Bowl collection and materials are promoted.

The total collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services is donated per archdiocesan guidelines.

The parish tithes a certain percentage of parish income for social service, social action and mission work.

Every attempt is made to ensure a just wage for parish personnel and school faculty in light of the Bishops letter on the economy.

The parish has written personnel policies.

There is a parish grievance procedure in place that may be used by parish employees and parishioners.

Information about the Archdiocesan mediation process has been posted and distributed to parish employees.

The Finance Committee makes every effort to balance priorities, to be cost effective as well as responsive to human needs.

No parishioner is denied access to the parish school or religious education programs because of an inability to pay.

Care is taken that parish social events and/or programs are accessible to all parishioners, regardless of income status.

The parish has a process to provide financial assistance to parishioners in need, e.g., St. Vincent DePaul, Network of Care.

When possible, the parish participates in ecumenical community efforts to help the poor, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

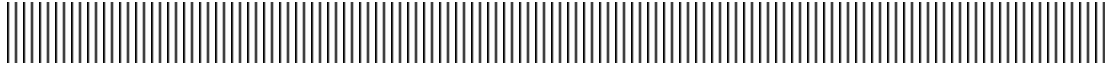
YES NO STEWARDSHP continued

[ ] [ ] The parish provides support groups for widows, divorced and separated, and persons struggling with chemical dependency.

[ ] [ ] Considerations of justice are used in evaluating the companies selected for parish business.

[ ] [ ] A parish committee and/or staff member is charged with education and advocacy for peace and justice.

[ ] [ ] Peace and justice activities are part of the annual planning and evaluation of the parish.



## SOCIAL MINISTRY

### A. Methods and Procedures of Parish Groups

YES NO

The parish has social ministry groups. Please list.

These groups communicate with the parish through the parish bulletin or through other means.

There are links between these groups and the pastoral council.

The parish staff supports the work of these parish social ministry groups.

A parish staff person is assigned the responsibility of working in the area of social ministry, including social service, respect life and social justice ministry.

Parish social ministry groups use prayer as a part of their meetings.

Days or evenings of reflection are part of their process.

Parish social ministry groups attempt to establish links with the poor or with those who work with the poor.

These groups have participated in an urban or rural "Plunge". (An immersion experience intended to assist participants to discover and to reflect on local justice efforts and needs.)

Respect and support exist between respect life and social justice ministries.

### B. Social Service Activities

Parish social ministry groups carry out emergency need projects, e.g., canned food drives. Please give examples.

Parish social ministry groups address long-term needs, e.g., care of the homebound. Please give examples.

Parish groups undertake special projects, e.g., housing rehabilitation. Please give examples.

YES NO SOCIAL MINISTRY continued

### C. Social Action or Advocacy Activities

Social ministry in our parish includes social action efforts, defined as working together to change unjust social structures.

The parish social action group undertakes a process of identifying issues and setting priorities among them.

The social action group studies issues in depth before initiating action.

The social action group attempts to deepen its knowledge about the official social teaching of the church.

The social action group participates in legislative advocacy:

Letter writing

Meeting with legislators

Legislative training.

The parish social action group is involved in other human rights advocacy efforts.

The social action group helps build a “solidarity economy”, e.g. promoting Fair Trade coffee or crafts and advocating for corporate responsibility

The social action group involves itself in community organizing on local issues.

The social action groups supports the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and projects funded by CCHD.

The social action group is involved in Catholic Relief Services, especially the Lenten program of CRS, Operation Rice Bowl.

The parish social action group participates in ecumenical coalitions.

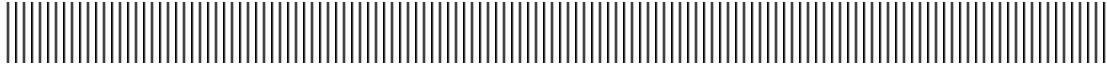
### D. Parish Involvement in Archdiocesan Social Action Efforts

The parish social action group participates at least once a year in regional Social Action Collaborative efforts.

The social action group is part of the “Action Alert” effort sponsored by the Catholic Social Action Office.

The social action group obtains ideas or in other ways seeks the counsel of the Catholic Social Action Office in undertaking social action projects.

Members of the parish social action group participate on the Archdiocesan Social Action Commission or on a committee/project team.



## REFLECTION AND EVALUATION

One reason for doing an assessment is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your program. An appreciation of these insights can give direction to parish planning. Please take time to examine the findings of your assessment.

In view of the responses, what strengths do you see in your parish's attempt to incorporate Catholic Social Teaching?

In view of the responses, what areas requiring improvements do you see in your parish's attempt to incorporate Catholic Social Teaching?

What recommendations can be made for future parish planning and action, and how can the Catholic Social Action Office assist you in your follow up?

Name of Parish

Contact Person

Phone \_\_\_ e-mail

Parishes are encouraged to share the results of their assessment with:

**Catholic Social Action | Archdiocese of Cincinnati: [www.catholicsocialaction.org](http://www.catholicsocialaction.org)**

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