

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN SOCIAL MINISTRY

I. WHAT IS SOCIAL MINISTRY?

Social ministry in a parish can take on a variety of forms and organization. As you read this, in more than a hundred parishes in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, St. Vincent de Paul groups are serving thousands of low-income families. With the help of Catholic Social Services, entire parish communities are supporting new refugee families from countries like Sudan, Afghanistan, and Colombia to resettle in our communities. Through twinning relationships, parishes in Cincinnati suburbs are building life-changing relationships with their fellow Catholics in exotic places like Jamaica and Ghana – and even in our own urban communities just a dozen miles away. Respect Life ministries are extremely important for parishes, as they are providing assistance to our area’s many Pregnancy Care Centers and organizing demonstrations for the March for Life in Washington, DC each January. A growing number of our parishes now have social justice ministries, which are writing letters and meeting with our federal officials about stopping the genocide in Darfur, enacting comprehensive immigration reform, promoting peace in Iraq, and passing a more just Farm Bill, among other things. Some parishes belong to networks of community organizing efforts, which are empowering the poor of Cincinnati to fight predatory lenders, tackle crime on our streets, and win contracts for minorities in public works projects. Other parish groups are fighting sweatshop labor and promoting Fair Trade coffee after masses. The list can go on and on.

What do all these ministries have in common? Overall, they are incredible signs of Christ alive in our world, working through the faithful to bring love to those who need it the most and to transform the world’s social structures to better reflect God’s Kingdom of peace and justice. Our Catholic doctrine insists that these tasks are constitutive dimensions of living out the Gospel and are necessary responsibilities of our parishes.

Pope Benedict XVI

In the pontiff’s first encyclical in 2005, *Deus Caritas Est (God Is Love)*, Pope Benedict XVI states that “social charity” is one of the three essential responsibilities of the Catholic Church:

*The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of **proclaiming the word of God** (kerygma-martyria), **celebrating the sacraments** (leitourgia), and **exercising the ministry of charity** (diakonia). These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable. For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being...*

The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society..., is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity. So they cannot relinquish their participation “in the many different economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural areas, which

are intended to promote organically and institutionally the common good.” The mission of the lay faithful is therefore to configure social life correctly, respecting its legitimate autonomy and cooperating with other citizens according to their respective competences and fulfilling their own responsibility. Even if the specific expressions of ecclesial charity can never be confused with the activity of the State, it still remains true that charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as “social charity”. (No. 25a, 29)¹

Communities of Salt and Light

In their 1994 document, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*, the United States bishops emphasize the critical need for parishes to be sources of Christ’s love for the world:

At a time of rampant individualism, we stand for family and community. At a time of intense consumerism, we insist it is not what we have, but how we treat one another that counts. In an age that does not value permanence or hard work in relationships, we believe marriage is forever and children are a blessing, not a burden. At a time of growing isolation, we remind our nation of its responsibility to the broader world, to pursue peace, to welcome immigrants, to protect the lives of hurting children and refugees. At a time when the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, we insist the moral test of our society is how we treat and care for the weakest among us. In these challenging days, we believe that the Catholic community needs to be more than ever a source of clear moral vision and effective action...The pursuit of justice and peace is an essential part of what makes a parish Catholic.²

A Responsibility for the ENTIRE Parish Community

It is easy for us to assume that a few committed “activists” or “compassionate people” will take care of this immense mandate for the Catholic Church. However, the work of service and social justice must be a component of how each and every Catholic lives out his or her faith. Parish social ministries should strive as often as possible to involve as many parishioners from the community as possible. Again, as the U.S. bishops state:

We need to build local communities of faith where our social teaching is central, not fringe; where social ministry is integral, not optional; where it is the work of every believer, not just the mission of a few committed people and committees.³

Tom Ulrich in his book, *Parish Social Ministry: Strategies for Success* provides a complete definition:

In summary, the full mission of parish social ministry is to help parishioners understand and act on Catholic social teaching. It does that by organizing teams of leaders in (at least) four ministry areas of direct service, legislative advocacy, global solidarity and global justice and peace, and community organizing. Those leaders, in turn, invite and recruit the rest of the parish to participate. Finally, all

*the activity is reinforced through formation and education in Catholic social teaching.*⁴

A Common Mission among All Ministries: Ambassadors of “Good News”

All parish ministries which regularly serve “the least of these” (Mt. 25) and work to transform unjust structures to promote life, human dignity, and care for God’s creation should celebrate their common task of being ambassadors of Christ’s “good news” to the world! They should all recognize their shared roots in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Doing so is not easy, however. Sometimes, some parishioners who may be less aware or passionate about a particular life or social justice issue may frown upon their fellow parishioners’ interests. It helps to identify some general “ground rules” in order to affirm the legitimacy of all social ministries in the parish:

1. While parishes should explicitly articulate the distinction between direct service (charity) and addressing the root structural causes of problems (social justice), there is no basis to label either social ministry as “superior”. We recognize the necessity for both approaches to social outreach.
2. Some issues should have a special place in all our hearts and be considered fundamental, such as the right to life (e.g. ending abortion or genocide). However, parishioners should not claim that any one person’s ministry is more important than another’s. We affirm the legitimacy of and need for all ministries. It is good to recognize that active parishioners have different talents and backgrounds that make up who they are and what motivates them to act on behalf of the kingdom of God. “Ranking” people’s good intentions actions to serve and change the world often only leads to division and resentment in our communities.
3. Since Catholic Social Teaching challenges our personal positions on many different social, political and economic issues (e.g. capital punishment, immigration, minimum wage, etc.), we do not expect members of various social ministries to agree with each other about every single issue and activity. However, we do encourage everyone to still respect the positions taken by some of our ministries as faithful interpretations of the demands of Catholic Social Teaching.

Disclaimer

It is impossible for most parishes to fulfill every component of this section of the toolkit. The following suggestions are meant to offer some best practices and ideas. We hope that these suggestions will lead your parish towards even more vibrant social ministry!

II. APPROACHES TO SOCIAL MINISTRY: KNOW THE DIFFERENCES!

Two Feet of Social Action

One fundamental important distinction to make among social ministries is which ones involve “Direct Service” and which ones “Social Justice”. While service addresses the immediate needs of the vulnerable, social justice transforms structures in order to end the root causes of their suffering. We are called to feed the hungry, AND we are called to fight for an end to hunger. We should welcome and shelter the immigrant, AND we should work to reform our immigration system so that it is more just to migrants. We are

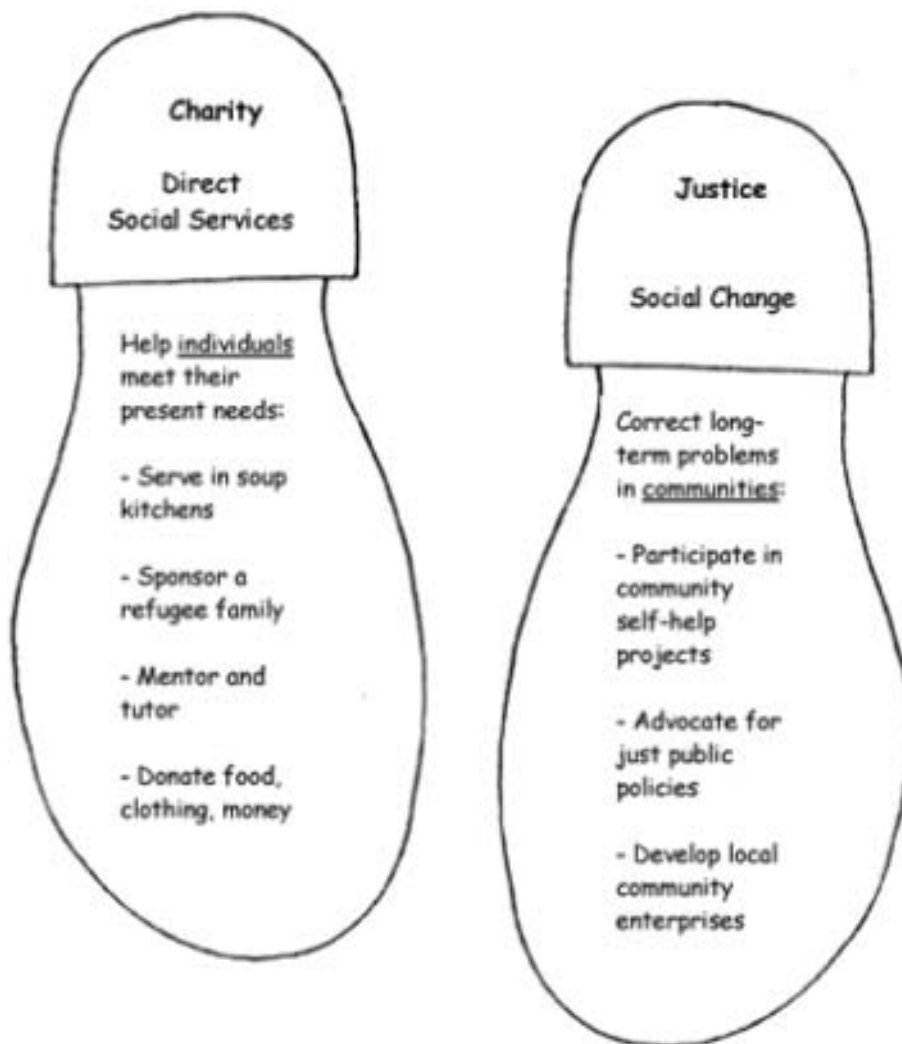
needed to comfort women suffering after an abortion, AND we are needed to work for an end to legal abortions in our nation.

A parish should strive to engage in both Service and Social Justice, and so it is important to know the difference between the two. As the “Two Feet of Social Action” illustrates, we need both to move forward in the building of the Kingdom! The U.S. bishops statement, *Communities of Salt and Light* explains:

Catholic teaching calls us to serve those in need and to change the structures that deny people their dignity and rights as children of God. Service and action, charity and justice are complementary components of parish social ministry. Neither alone is sufficient; both are essential signs of the gospel at work. A parish serious about social ministry will offer opportunities to serve those in need and to advocate for justice and peace. These are not competing priorities, but two dimensions of the same fundamental mission to protect the life and dignity of the human person.⁵

The Two Feet of Social Action

- It takes two feet to walk. Otherwise we lose balance.
- If we use **only** the first foot (direct service), we can make matters worse by fostering dependency.
- If we use **only** the second foot (social change) we run the risk of becoming too far removed from the reality of the problem
- A true Christian faith requires **both** steps.



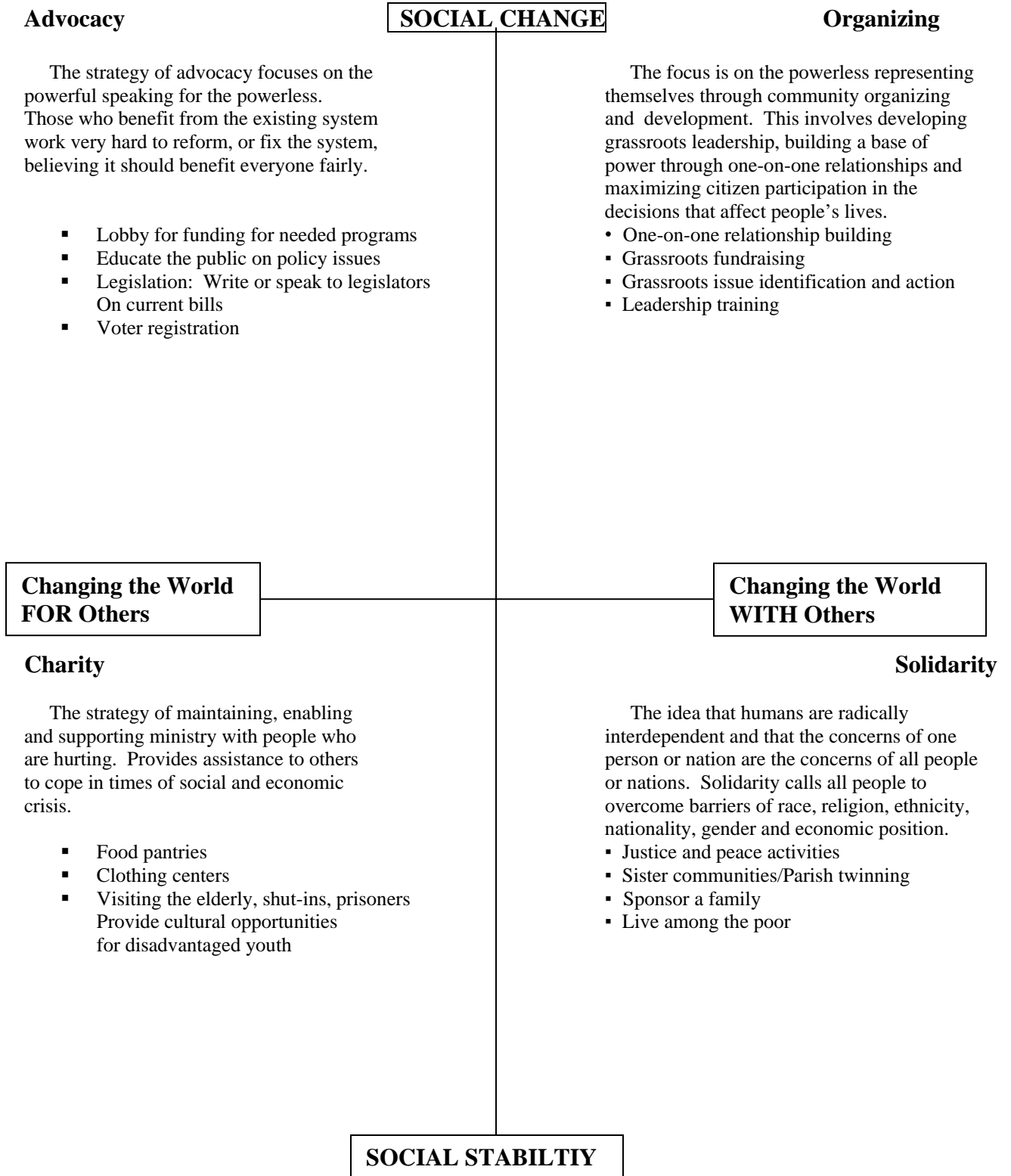
Four Areas of Social Ministry

Another way to define areas of social ministry in a parish is according to the following chart, which distinguishes among four approaches to social ministry: **Charity**, **Advocacy**, **Community Organizing** and **Solidarity**. While no one approach is more important than the other, it is very important to know when a group of parishioners is involved in one and when they are involved in another. By doing so, a parish community can identify how it might want to direct its energies to ensure that a little something of all approaches is happening.

The chart divides these four ministries along two axes. The vertical axis progresses from ministries that do not necessarily create structural change in the world to those that aim to do so. Charity and Solidarity, therefore, can be considered ministries which maintain the political, economic and social “status quo”, while Advocacy and Community Organizing by their nature intend to “rock the boat”. Given this, upward movement along this axis can sometimes lead us into situations of controversy, unpopularity and, most importantly, being prophetic!

The horizontal axis progresses from ministries that involve changing the world FOR others and changing it WITH others. At times, the vulnerable of the world need our help because they cannot help themselves, as the physically disabled may when we deliver meals to them. Or they may need our voice in the arenas of power because their voice is not heard by those in power, as the unborn always do in relation to abortion legislation. At other times, people require our involvement to help them organize their own power so they themselves can create change in the world, as civil rights movements do and farmers from developing countries do, who are trying to sell Fair Trade products to consumers in the U.S. Or perhaps they only need us to overcome our superficial differences to share in their pain and suffering, as a parishioner from Cincinnati might with one from a parish in El Salvador.

Styles of Working for Social Justice



Provided by Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Social Action Office
Adapted from *Becoming a Community of Salt and Light*, Peggy Prevoznik Heins

III. SOCIAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

On pages 20-37 of this section, you will find lists of local organizations that serve the world in at least one of each of the four categories identified above. It is by no means comprehensive. Rather, it is a sampling of possibilities that a parish may consider if it is interested in increasing its activity in a particular area of social ministry.

Direct Service

Examples of organizations providing engagement in this area include Bethany House, Habitat for Humanity, Pregnancy Care Centers and St. Vincent de Paul. A complete list of pregnancy care centers is located on pages 29-36 of this section. Furthermore, a list of volunteer opportunities available from the agencies funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development is found at the end of this section.

Advocacy

Examples of organizations in this area include Bread for the World, Catholic Conference of Ohio, Cincinnati Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, and the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center. In addition, you will find a list of several local, regularly scheduled events and vigils that serve to advocate for a better world on page 37 of this section.

Community Organizing

Examples of organizations in this area include ACORN, Amos Project, Communities United for Action, WIN Action Organizing Project and WIN Senior Action Coalition.

Solidarity

Examples of organizations in this area include Twinning relationships promoted by the Mission Office and efforts of Catholic Relief Services. Some examples of twinning efforts can be found on pages 22-25 in the “Faith Formation” section of the toolkit.

IV. ORGANIZING FOR EFFECTIVE SOCIAL MINISTRY

There are countless ways that parishes can organize their social ministries. Included here are just a few general concepts worth highlighting.

Organizing a Parish Social Ministry Coordination Team

You will find an excellent guide for this from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on the link, “Building Social Ministry Teams” on the Catholic Social Action website. For additional resources on this topic, visit <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/forparishes.shtml>.

Pulling together a good team

Skills, energy, faith commitment, and perseverance are several criteria important for the start of a good team. All must feel he or she will be part of something larger than themselves, and that their efforts will be successful. Two to five persons should be initiating the team effort so it is not marked as Joe’s or Mary’s program. If three to five members attended the convocation, they would be enough for the starting team to lay out

a synopsis for explanation to the pastor, parish staff and pastoral council. Following their input, the plan should be enhanced. The inventory of existing ministries in the parish should be researched for their possible collaboration. Long-time parish leaders and ministry heads should be consulted for their recommendations. Special written invitations should be sent to those identified; one-on-one interviews are ideal for identifying new team members; and pulpit and bulletin announcements should be made with an explanation of the broad objectives of the Social Teaching initiative within the parish.

Creating vision, mission, objectives/action plans and goals

The starting team must be clear with their **vision**, if not in the beginning, by the time of the larger meeting. This should be expressed in writing and discussed for consensus.

The preliminary **mission** for the parish group should be framed around the seven CST themes with a scope that stretches the participants into collaboration within the parish and several initiatives into the community. Leaders should be cognizant of the social justice issues identified by the GCSAC. The examples of opportunities listed in the section on *Social Ministry – Beyond Parish Life*, on pages 20-28 of this section, can also be a starting point. Peruse the examples of several communities in the USA dioceses in <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching>.

The mission should complement the existing parish mission or be incorporated into the parish mission.

After the parish group has a good understanding of CST, through study of written and visual materials and presentations of knowledgeable speakers, collaboration among the existing and new parish ministries will be more constructive. **Objectives** with action plans with **sponsors/committees**, timetables, and goals can be set.

Official connection to pastoral council of parish

It is best for social ministries to not be haphazard entities in a parish. They deserve to be recognized officially by the governing and main advisory bodies of the parish. A social concerns committee should intentionally assign someone the responsibility of reporting to the pastoral council and ensuring that the committee's activities are included in the council's business agenda.

Intentional communication with other appropriate parish ministries

In order to avoid relegating the social mission of the Church to just the dedicated members of the social concerns committee, each key parish ministry should have some substantial connection to the social ministry life of the parish. Having a committee member assigned to work with the Worship committee in a parish, for example, will better ensure that Catholic Social Teaching and social ministries are somehow celebrated during Sunday liturgies. An intentional communication link with the Finance committee will help the social concerns committee integrate social justice into the temporal affairs of the parish, such as selling Fair Trade Coffee or tithing.

Pastor or staff support

If there were one thing that parishes with active social ministries have in common, it would be that they have either public support from their pastor and/or active staffing from a parish employee. We all know that Father does not need to feel that social ministries are putting even more work on his plate. Yet, the endorsement from the pastor of Catholic Social Teaching and social ministries in a public way, such as during Sunday liturgy, can make a significant impact on building the “legitimacy” of these efforts in the eyes of other parishioners. On October 23, 2007, about 175 priests from the Archdiocese attended the annual convocation of priests, which was on the topic of Catholic Social Teaching. It was a venue where priests were encouraged to be active promoters of social justice. They were informed there about the Catholic Social Teaching Convocation of January 12, 2008, so many pastors should be aware of this effort.

While most parishes are not blessed with a staff person whose specific job description is the promotion of the parish’s social ministry (a few are!), a social concerns committee’s work can go a long way with the help of a DRE, Pastoral Associate, or other staff member who commits some time towards organizing, recruiting, and supporting their efforts. All parishes in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati are encouraged to consider ways to incorporate ministries of service and social justice into a staff person’s job description.

Identification of Respect Life, CCHD, CRS, and Global Solidarity/Parish Twinning Contacts

There are several social justice campaigns that are important for every parish to recognize.

- **Respect Life**: Certain social justice issues should have a special place in our hearts, such as the protection of human life. It is the intent of the Respect Life Program of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to have a Respect Life Coordinator in all parishes, as liaison between the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Conference of Ohio, and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The Coordinator will help promote education, pastoral care, and public policy programs in parishes related to Respect Life issues. Visit: www.catholiccincinnati.org/familylife/ .
- **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**: Since its start thirty-seven years ago, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has worked to transform lives and communities, focusing steadily on breaking the cycle of poverty in thousands of communities across the United States. CCHD was established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with a two-fold mandate to fund low-income controlled empowerment projects and to educate Catholics about the root causes of poverty within the context of the Catholic social tradition. CCHD programs are funded through an annual collection in parishes each November. In order to ensure that the promotion for the CCHD collection takes place in a parish and the educational resources of CCHD are utilized, it is helpful to identify a CCHD contact person. Visit: www.usccb.org/cchd .
- **Catholic Relief Services**: Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to serve World War II survivors in

Europe. Since then, CRS has expanded in size to reach more than 80 million people in more than 100 countries on five continents. Its mission is to assist impoverished and disadvantaged people overseas, working in the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching to promote the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person. Although its mission is rooted in the Catholic faith, its operations serve people based solely on need, regardless of their race, religion or ethnicity. Within the United States, CRS engages Catholics to live their faith in solidarity with the poor and suffering of the world. CRS is the official international relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community. Two collections take place related to CRS in our parishes: Operation Rice Bowl (during Lent) and the Catholic Relief Services collection (second Sunday after Easter). In addition, CRS provides a wealth of educational resources on international issues. It is helpful for a parish to identify a CRS contact who is responsible for promoting these efforts. Visit www.crs.org .

- **Global Solidarity/ Parish Twinning:** Many parishes have meaningful relationships with other faith communities in the U.S. and all over the world. For more information on these kinds of efforts, please see pages 22-25 in the “Faith Formation” section of the toolkit and visit the Archdiocesan Mission Office site at: www.catholiccincinnati.org/mission .

Representation in the Greater Cincinnati Social Action Collaborative

Launched in 2006, the Greater Cincinnati Social Action Collaborative is an informal network of parishioners from a number of parishes who come together each year to vote on social justice issues which they would each like to work on in common. The purpose of the collaborative is NOT to supplant the great work that each parish is already doing, but to identify one, two or three efforts that leaders can promote in their own parishes as part of a larger, regional effort. Issues submitted for consideration must have a foundation in Catholic Social Teaching. In 2006, for example, parishioners from 26 parishes came together in January and voted to work throughout the year on addressing the genocide in Darfur and raising the minimum wage in Ohio.

The goals of the collaborative to positively assist parish social ministries both “externally” to the parish itself and “internally”:

1. **External:** By having numerous parishes advancing a common cause, we create a stronger “power base” among the Catholic community, and we stand a greater chance of creating real social change. In 2006, for example, multiple parish communities drew attention to the genocide in Darfur by writing letters, hosting educational workshops, participating in local demonstrations, and joining with other faith communities. As a result, local Congresspersons co-sponsored the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act and traveled to Darfur. Regarding the minimum wage campaign, multiple parishes gathered signatures to place a Minimum Wage amendment on the November ballot that year. Organized Catholics were responsible for hosting educational workshops and collecting hundreds of signatures that eventually led to the passage of the initiative.

2. Internal: Knowing that we are not alone in our struggle goes a long way. Realizing that my parish is working with dozens of other parishes in our community on the same effort can really build a positive energy for our efforts. Even more importantly, our parish leaders and fellow parishioners are often more apt to jump on board! Numerous parishes working in conjunction with Archdiocesan offices can create a public “legitimacy” for people to support a particular issue. In addition, they can feel more inclined to be a part of something if they feel our efforts might have enough power to succeed. In other words, the collaborative aims to be a recruitment tool!

Running effective meetings

Meetings of the smaller team can be informal but focused toward early objectives to be achieved with each group or individual. Good notes should be maintained so important elements are retained for plan development. Larger group meetings should have a tighter agenda and follow a fairly strict timetable, while still allowing new ideas to be introduced. Meeting organizers should have a consensus of the objectives of each meeting.

The powerful tool of email should be used as much as practical for the agenda, reports, and minutes, while considering those who are not yet “connected.” Agenda sheets should be available for the meetings. Light refreshments should be provided.

Meeting settings should be in a sufficiently large and comfortable room, with tables, where all participants can face and hear each other. Power Point slides can help keep the presentation focused. Attendees’ names should be obtained with phone, email, existing parish ministry, and profession. One or two people should run the meeting while one or two persons collect the ideas for the minutes. Minutes should be sent within a few days of the meeting so members can recall the key points and inject clarifications.

Footnotes

1. http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20051225_deus-caritas-est_en.html
2. *Communities of Salt and Light*, pg. 2 (USCCB, 1-800-235-8722)
3. *Communities of Salt and Light*, pg. 4
4. *Parish Social Ministry: Strategies for Success*, pg. 17. By Tom Ulrich, Ave Maria Press, 2001.
5. *Communities of Salt and Light*, pg. 6

Social Ministry – Beyond Parish Life

While all the ministries operating within a Catholic parish provide many opportunities for members to contribute to their personal and parish members’ spiritual development and social needs, there remain the larger communities of local neighborhood, the archdiocese, region, nation, and the world. There may be reluctance for members to look outward for a number of reasons: feelings of inadequacy, constriction of personal time and resources, lack of understanding of the needs and the existing organizations providing service, and others.

As one looks at the larger social obligations, the problems and issues become more complex. Abortion, broken families, war, widespread hunger, inadequate housing, water, and family resources, disease, pollution, addictions, crime, prison, and the death penalty seem beyond our reach for solutions. But stepping outside our home and parish cocoons, with the courage and strength of our Catholic faith and knowledge of its teachings, can be the beginning of making our wider contribution.

Following are some existing resources within the larger Catholic, other religious, secular nonprofit, and government organizations that can help carry the message of Christ into actions. These represent only a sampling of possibilities for volunteers. Each website provides information about specific programs that would require more space than is convenient for this toolkit.

Codes represent the primary ministry focus of: (D) Direct Service, (A) Advocacy, (O) Community Organizing, (S) Solidarity.

Organization	Program		Website, Email or other
Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati	A variety of ministries, including African-American Catholic Ministries, CISE, Campus Ministry, Schools, Catholic Social Services, Catholic Social Action, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Family Life, Hispanic Ministries, Mission, Rural Life, Stewardship, Youth and Young Adult, Worship, and many more. View them all under the “office directory” on the Archdiocesan website.	D A O S	www.catholiccincinnati.org
Other Local & National Catholic			
Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)	CCHD was established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with a two-fold mandate to fund low-income controlled empowerment projects and to educate Catholics about the root causes of poverty within	A O S	http://www.usccb.org/cchd/

	the context of the Catholic social tradition. CCHD programs are funded through an annual collection in parishes each November.		
Catholic Conference of Ohio	The Catholic Conference of Ohio is the official representative of the Catholic Church in public matters affecting the Church and the general welfare of the citizens of Ohio.	A	http://www.ohiocathconf.org
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	CRS assists impoverished and disadvantaged people overseas, working in the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching to promote the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person. Within the United States, CRS engages Catholics to live their faith in solidarity with the poor and suffering of the world.	D O A S	http://crs.org/
Catholic Social Services of Southwest Ohio, 100 East 8 th St., Cincinnati, OH 45202, 241-7745	Catholic Social Services of Southwestern Ohio is an agency of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, existing to advance the human dignity and welfare of people in need. Services include counseling, parenting programs, pregnancy counseling, pre-adoptive infant foster care, adoption, postponing sexual involvement program, refugee resettlement, Caregiver Assistance Network, Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Companion Program, homemaker/personal care, jail chaplaincy, immigration services.	D S	www.cssdoorway.org
Su Casa Hispanic Center, 7036 Fairpark Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45216, 761-1588.	An agency of Catholic Social Services, Su Casa provides a wide range of services to recent Hispanic, immigrants.	D S	www.cssdoorway.org then link to Su Casa
CRISPAZ, Christians for Peace in El Salvador (soon to be headquartered in Cincinnati!)	CRISPAZ is a faith-based organization dedicated to building bridges of solidarity between the Church of the poor and marginalized communities in El Salvador and	S	www.crispaz.org

	communities in the US and other countries.		
Knights of Columbus	Information sharing forum between the Grand Knights of the Councils, District Deputy, and our local Clergy.	D	http://www.cincykofc.org/index.htm
Legatus	To study, live and spread the Faith in our business, professional and personal lives.	D A	http://www.legatus.org/public/index.asp
Order of Malta	Commitment to reaching their spiritual perfection within the Church and to expending their energies serving the poor and the sick.	D	http://www.smom.org/worldwide.php
Pax Christi, USA	Commits itself to peace education and, with the help of its bishop members, promotes the gospel imperative of peacemaking as a priority in the Catholic Church in the United States.	A S	www.paxchristi.org
St. Francis-St. Joseph Catholic Worker House, P.O. Box 10118, Cincinnati, OH 45210, 381-4941	Shelter/advocacy	D	www.sjh-cincy.com
St. Francis Seraph Soup Kitchen, 14 E. Liberty St. Cinti. OH 45210 421-2547	Soup kitchen—dinner—Over-the-Rhine	D	www.stfrancisseraph.org
St. Joseph Home, 10722 Wyscarver Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241, 1-877-999-HOPE	Provides round-the-clock care and programming for mentally retarded/multi-handicapped children	D	www.sjh-cincy.com
St. Vincent de Paul – Cincinnati Council	60 church conferences. Visit needy in their homes to give spiritual, food, rent, utilities, clothing, furniture, etc. Pantries, Charitable Pharmacy, social counseling, Thrift Stores.	D A	http://www.svdpcincinnati.org/ See for local links to other agencies and ask for electronic download of 10/07 Community Resource Guide. http://www.svdpusa.org/
Twinning with other catholic Parishes or	A coming together of a parish in the Archdiocese of	D S	See example of an Arch. Parish on 22-25 in the “Faith

organizations	Cincinnati with people in a domestic or foreign mission area of the world, in an active, mutual and on-going <i>faith</i> commitment.		Formation” section of the toolkit.
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops	Advocacy on national and international issues related to Catholic Social Teaching, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arms Control, Campaign/Human Development, Catholic Social Teaching, Debt, Death Penalty, Domestic Issues, Environment, Faith-Based Initiative, Faithful Citizenship, Housing, Government Liaison, International Issues, Iraq, Labor Issues, Middle East, Migrants & Refugees, Nonviolence, Poverty, Respect Life Issues, Social Dev. & World Peace, Social Security, Trafficking, Welfare 	A	http://www.usccb.org/
Other religious Cincinnati Area	Various		Various
AMOS Project, contact Terry Brennan, 42 Calhoun St., Cincinnati, OH 45219, 745-3390	The AMOS Project is a group of congregations committed to living out our faith through public action.	O	www.theamosproject.org
Bethany House, 1841 Fairmount Ave. Cincinnati, 45214 557-2873	Shelter/services for homeless women and children	D	www.bethanyhouseservices.org
Bread For The World 50 F Street, NW, Suite 500 · Washington, DC 20001	Collects facts on domestic and global hunger. It also generates answers to frequently asked questions about hunger. Or you can learn about what issues Bread for the World members are working on right now to bring an end to hunger in the U.S. and around the world.	A	http://www.bread.org/
The Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center 1415 Walnut Street Cincinnati, OH 45202 513 621-5991	Parent organization of The Day Labor Organizing Project, The Cincinnati Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform and performs extensive legal and human rights services for poor, low wage and immigrant workers.	D A O	http://www.cworkers.org/ A project of CICWJ (below)
Cincinnati Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, 215 E. 14 th St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, 513-621-4336. Sr.	Educate and mobilize the religious community on issues and campaigns to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions for	A S	mystry1@juno.com

Monica McGloin	workers, especially low-wage workers.		
Council of Christian Communion	Primarily jail/prison visit and worship. Training for same.	DS	http://www.cccgc.org/
Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center, 215 E. 14 th Street Cincinnati, OH 45210, 579-8547	Advocacy for peace, justice and systemic change	AS	www.ijpc-cincinnati.org
Interfaith Business Builders, 1707 Westwood Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45214, 557-3600	IBB creates employee-owned cooperative businesses, which offer people a dramatic opportunity to exercise new control in their lives.	O	http://www.interfaithbusinessbuilders.org/
Interfaith Hospitality Network, 2110 St. Michael St., Cincinnati, OH 45204, 471-1100	IHN is a unique response to homelessness, combining volunteers from the religious community with full-time professionals to reintegrate families into the community.	DS	www.ihncincinnati.org
Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati(MARCC) 617 Vine Street # 1035 / Cincinnati, OH 45202, (513) 721-4843	Brings together local religious judicatories around shared social justice priorities for the Cincinnati community	A	Email: marcc@fuse.net
Sign of the Cross, Inc., 1614 Walnut St., Cinti. OH 45211 241-5535	Housing for low income people, Over-the-Rhine	D	
Secular Nonprofits	Various social needs		See HCJFS links
Cincinnati ACORN Amy Teitelman 513-221-1737 1025 Central Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45202	Working to bring justice to neighborhood issues that are vital to the health and vitality of their communities.	O	ohacornciro@acorn.org www.acorn.org
AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati, 2183 Central Parkway, Cincinnati OH 45214, 421-2437	AIDS/HIV services, education, advocacy	DA	www.avoc.org

Caracole, Inc. 1921 Summit Road, Suite 201 Cincinnati, OH 45237, 761-1480	Shelter/services for AIDS patients	D	www.caracole.org
Charities United for the Poor	Raise awareness about the plight of the poor in the Cincinnati area.	D A	http://www.cupcincy.org/index.html
Children's Defense Fund, 258 Erkenbrecker Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45229 751-2332	Advocacy for children's issues	A	www.childrensdefense.org
Communities United for Action. 3726 Liewellyn Ave., Cinti., OH 45223 513-541-2709	Grassroots coalition of 46 community groups representing 13 neighborhoods in the Millcreek Valley	O	See affiliate organization, Working In Neighborhoods at www.wincincy.org
Community Land Cooperative of Cincinnati, 727 Ezzard Charles Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45203,721-CLCC	Empowers families with low and medium incomes to own homes in the West End and neighboring communities, with the Co-op retaining land ownership to perpetuate affordable housing.	D O	http://communitylandco-op.org/
Contact Center, 1227 Vine St, Cincinnati, OH 45210, 381-4242	Through the empowerment of low and moderate income members, works to bring about economic and social justice through education and action. Provides leadership opportunities to members to be the primary "change-makers."	O	http://www.overtherhine.org/contactcenter/
Cooperative for Education, 2730 Hyde Park Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45209, 731-2595	Cincinnati based non-profit organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty in Guatemala by providing textbooks and educational opportunities to under-privileged schoolchildren.	D	http://www.coeduc.org/
Cornerstone Community Loan Fund, 1115 Pendleton Street Suite 2 NW Cincinnati, OH 45210, 369-0114	Revitalizes distressed urban neighborhoods from the inside out. It organizes groups of low income people, and it provides professional support for cooperative efforts to develop quality affordable housing, a safe and attractive environment, and new financial resources and	D O	www.cornerstoneloanfund.org

	skills.		
Executive Service Corps of Cincinnati	Help nonprofits achieve their missions by providing high quality, affordable consulting services. Board Development, Strategic Planning, etc.	O	http://www.esc-cincinnati.org/index.php
Drop-Inn Center, 217 W. 12 th Street, Cincinnati OH 45202 721-0643	Shelter for homeless	D	www.dropinn.org
FreeStore/FoodBank, 40 E. McMicken, Cincinnati, OH 45210 357-4640	Food pantry, resources/services for low income people	D	www.freestorefoodbank.org
Habitat for Humanity, 201 W. 8 th St. Cinti., OH 45202 621-4147	Housing construction for low income people	D	www.cincinnati-habitat.org
Healing Connections, 2900 Woodbourn Ave., Cincinnati OH 45206 751-0600	RN and health services to low income people	D	www.healing-connection.org
Justice Watch, 1120 Garden street, Cincinnati, OH 45214, 241-0490	Prisoners rights advocacy	A	www.justicewatchinc.org
Legal Aid of Cincinnati, 901 Elm Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 241-9400	Legal services and advocacy for low income people	D A	www.lascinti.org
Lighthouse Youth Services, 4059 Reading Road Cincinnati, OH 45229 961-4080, 851-1111	Shelter and services for homeless teens	D	www.lys.org
Madisonville Education and Assistance Center, 5915 Madison Rd. Cinti, OH 45227	Services in Madisonville neighborhood	D	www.meaconline.org
Mary Magdalen House, 1221-1223 Main St., Cincinnati, OH 45210,	Services for low income women	D	

721-4811			
Mercy Connections, 2540 Woodbourn Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45206, 221-7331	Services and education for Walnut Hills neighborhood	D	www.mercycon.org
Our Daily Bread, P.O. Box 14862, Cincinnati, OH 45259, 621-6364,	Soup kitchen—breakfast and lunch/tutoring in Over- the-Rhine	D	www.ourdailybread.us
Oyler Elementary School, 2121 Hatmaker, Cincinnati 244-3000	Reading to and tutoring children	D	
Peaslee Neighborhood Center, 215 E. 14 th St., Cincinnati, OH 45210, 621-5514	Services for low income adults/children in Over the Rhine	D	
Pregnancy Care Centers of Greater Cincinnati	Providing a full range of services for expectant parents, newborns, infants, toddlers and their families.	D	See complete list on pages 29-36 of this section.
Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati	Exists to ensure that pro-life principles of protection and dignity for all innocent human life are upheld and kept before the public.	A	http://www.affirminglife.org/
STRIVE	Collaboration among community organizations that care deeply about <u>educational success</u> in the Gr. Cincinnati region to develop a Roadmap to Success that identifies key experiences, benchmarks, and transition points that are necessary for success from birth through some form of education beyond high school.	A O	http://www.strivetogether.org/about
Talbert House, 2600 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45206, 751-7747	Halfway house and other chemical dependency services	D	www.talberthouse.org
Tender Mercies, P.O.Box 14465, Cincinnati, OH 45250 Ed Slater -721-8666	Shelter/housing for mentally ill	D	www.tendermerciesinc.org
Tom Geiger Guest House, Inc. 2631 Gilbert Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45224 961-4555	Shelter in Walnut Hills	D	www.tomgeigerguesthouse.com

Welcome House of N. Ky., 141 Pike Street, Covington, KY 41011 859-431-8717	Shelter/soup kitchen	D	www.welcomehouseky.org
Working in Neighborhoods (WIN), 1814 Dreman Ave., Cincinnati, OH; Phone: 541-4109	Community building, home ownership, and economic learning. Housing rehab, home maintenance for the elderly, community-based organizing, recycling program	D O	www.wincincy.org
United Way of Gr. Cincinnati	Community catalyst mobilizing the caring power of individuals and organizations to help people.	D O	http://www.uwgc.org/
YWCA House of Peace Battered Women's Shelter, Cincinnati 732-0450	Includes battered women's hotline	D	www.ywca.org
Government Agencies	Various		
Clermont County Social Services Guide	Those needing services directly and those who are interested in finding service help for others may use this guide in any way they see fit using the tab locators.		This file is found on the St. Elizabeth Seton Parish website at http://www.setonmilford.org/organizations/SocialServicesGuide.asp
Hamilton County Job & Family Services	Provides services such as temporary cash assistance, food stamps and Medicaid, subsidized child care, child protection, child-support case-management, adult protection and disability assistance.	D	http://www.hcjfs.hamilton-co.org/ Use Community Services –Links for many other agencies
Hamilton County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board	Primary target populations are adults who are severely mentally disabled (SMD), children who are severely emotionally disabled (SED) and adults who are dually diagnosed with substance abuse and mental illness (SAMI).	D	Take a stroll through this website and the agencies the Board supports for a comprehensive review: http://www.hcmhrs.org/

State of Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services	Services to Job Seekers and Employers, Services for Ohio Families, Legislative Services, Personnel Services, and Public Records Requests.	D http://jfs.ohio.gov/ Use links for most services.
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Greater Cincinnati Pregnancy Center Coalition

1-800-395-4357 –Option Line

FREE PREGNANCY TESTS - Results while you wait@

NATIONAL HOTLINES (24 hour crisis numbers)

1-800-550-4900 - Birthright Inc.

1-800-BETHANY - Bethany Lifeline

1-888-550-7577- Heartbeat International

Clifton

Pregnancy Care of Cincinnati

108 William Howard Taft Road

Cincinnati, OH 45219

Carin Guber, Center Director

*(513) 961-7777 Fax: 487-7778

Email: tcooper@pregnancyarecincy.org

M/T/W/Th 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

F 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sat. 9:30 am --1:00 pm

Northwest

Pregnancy Care of Cincinnati

1608 Sundale Avenue

Cincinnati, OH 45239

Lora Troyer, Director

*(513) 521-3117 Fax: 521-6853

Email: ltroyer@pregnancyarecincy.org

M/T/W/Th 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

F 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sat. Closed

Tri-County/Sharonville

Pregnancy Care of Cincinnati

636 Northland Blvd Ste. 160

Cincinnati, OH 45240-3221

Terri Konerman, Director

(513) 769-7175 Fax: 769-1190

prichmonds@pregnancyarecincy.org

Director of Programs

513-521-3117

Fax: 513-521-6853

alisajones@pregnancyarecincy.org

Email for all 3 locations:

www.pregnancyareofcincinnati.org

M/T/Th 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

W 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Fri/Sat Closed

MT. WASHINGTON

Birthright

2117 Beechmont Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45230-5414
Pat Diekman, Director
birthr@fuse.net
*(513) 241-5433 Fax: 241-2396

M/T/W/Th/F 10:30 am - 4:30 pm

Old St. Marys Pregnancy Center

123 E. 13th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45210
Terri Huwel, Director
(513) 929-9165 Fax: 721-0436
Home: 921-5207 B
dhuwel@cinci.rr.com

M/T/W/Th/F 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

East

Pregnancy Center East, Inc.

2752 Erie Avenue, Suite 11
Cincinnati, OH 45208
Scott D. Stephens, LISW
*(513) 321-3100 Fax: 321-8584
Email: scottpce@fuse.net
pregnancycentereast@fuse.net

M/W/F 9:30 am - 5:00 pm
T/Th 9:30 am - 1:00 pm
T/W/Th 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

West

Pregnancy Center West

4900 Glenway Avenue, 2nd Flr
Cincinnati, OH 45238 (corner of
Glenway & Guerley across from CVS)
Jackie Carney, Executive Director
*(513) 244-5700 Fax: 244-2886
Peggy Feirstein
Post Abor/Preg Loss Dept.
pcwest@fuse.net

M/T/Th/F 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
M/W/Th 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Wed 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Sat 12:00 noon- 3:00 pm
Walk in hours -others by appointment

Middletown

Community Pregnancy Center
2230 Central Avenue
Middletown, OH 45044
Candice Keller, Director
*(513) 424-2229 Fax: 424-2275
(513) 424-7312
Email:

M/T 12:00 noon - 7:00 pm
Wed 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Th 12:00 noon - 7:00 pm
F/Sat 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Satellite Office

Community Pregnancy Center
East 5th Street

Franklin, OH 45005
(937) 704-9999
franklin@pregnancychoice.net
Website: pregnancychoice.net

(937) 292-2990

T 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Th 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Oxford

Pregnancy Care Center
23 E. High Street #3
Oxford, OH 45056
Director, Marna Laurito
(513) 523-1814
Email: info@oxfordpcc.org

M/W/F 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
T/Th 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**Clermont Cty-Eastgate-Eastern
Hamilton County**

A Caring Place
4446 Mt. Carmel-Tobasco Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45244
Shawna Dunn, Executive Director
(513) 753 B HELP
24 hr. Helpline 300-3565 or 300-3566
acaringcorner@aol.com
Anita Paddock, Dir of Volunteers
aypnana@juno.com

M 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
T 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
W/Th 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Fri 12:00 noon B 3:00 pm

Georgetown

Pregnancy Resource Center
PO Box 136
US Post Office, Lower Level
201 East Grant Street
Georgetown, OH 45121
Tamma Plymessenger Director
*(937)378-6853
Email: tamplymess@cs.com
Prc_director@yahoo.com
Website:www.pregnancyhope.com

M 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
T 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Th 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wed. 2-6pm Mt. Orab Office
400 Smith Ave.
Mt. Orab, OH 45154

Hillsboro

Southern Ohio Pregnancy Center
135 W. Walnut
Hillsboro, OH 45133
Deanna Smaltz, Director
smaltzdee@yahoo.com
(937)393-8429

Northern Kentucky

New Hope Center Preg. Center
228 Thomas More Parkway
Crestview Hills, KY 41017
Pam Glenn, Executive Director
(859) 341-0766 Fax: (859) 341-7607
(859) 409-9775 - helpline
[1-800-395-4357](tel:1-800-395-4357)
pglenn@newhopecenter.com

Satellite

As above

3720 Decoursey Avenue
Latonia, KY 41015
Donna Harris, Director
(859) 431-0011
donna.harris@fuse.net

Florence

CareNet Pregnancy Services of N.KY

7134 Price Pike

Florence, KY 41042

Mail;PO Box17688

Florence KY 41017-0688

Kathleen Kiely, Executive Director

(859) 282-0029 Office

(859) 282-6357 Fax

(859) 282-9878 Hotline

Kathleen@carenetnky.org

M/T /W/Th 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

M/T/Th/W 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Covington

511 Greenup Street

Covington, KY

(859) 431-9878

Center Director

M/Th 10:00am-7:00pm

T 11:00am-2:00pm

Covington

The Rose Garden Home

1800 Madison Avenue

Covington, KY 41014

(859) 491-Rose

rosegard99@aol.com

W 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Williamstown

305 N. Main

T 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

W 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

M-T-W-Th-F 10:00am – 4:00pm

Williamstown, KY 41097

525 Main Street

Lawrenceburg, IN 47025-1859

Kim Maloy, Director

(812) 537-4357

(812) 537-9043 (call first)

info@dearborncountypcc.com

Pregnancy Care Center

Hamilton, OH

Pathway to Hope Women's Center
415 Henry Street
Hamilton, OH 45011
Sue Wolf, Director
513-895-2229
phwc@fuse.net

W 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Th 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Harrison, OH

Reach Out Pregnancy Center
10150 Harrison Suite 8
Harrison, OH 45030 -1966
Jamie Mather, Director
(513) 367-7710 B Office
(513) 367-2029 B Fax
ropc1@fuse.net

M/Th 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
T/W 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Fri 9:00 am- 12:00 pm

Blanchester

Blanchester Pregnancy Resource Center
PO Box 104
Blanchester, OH 45107
Becky Latham
(937) 783-2276
barbb@fuse.net

M-F 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Th 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Sat 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Lebanon

Women's Center
777 Columbus Avenue Ste 14A
Lebanon, OH 45030-1682
(513) 934-1777
24 hr hotline: 866-565-4673
Melissa McNeil Director
hzimmaro@sbcglobal.net

MWF 10:00am – 4:00pm
Tues. 5:00pm – 8:00pm

T/W 11:00 am-4:30 pm
Th 4:00 pm-8:00 pm
Fr/Sat By appointment
All emergencies seen immediately

Women's Center for Health, Hope, Healing
PO Box 19627
Cincinnati, OH 45219
Joseph Gubasta, Ph.D., Director
961-0165
jgubasta@cinci.rr.com
wjoe@cinci.rr.com

Auxiliary Members

T 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Mon -Fri. 9:00 – 5:00

Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati

1802 W. Galbraith Road
Cincinnati, OH 45239
Paula Westwood, Director
(513) 729-4994 hotline
(513) 728-7870 Office
rtlpaula@cinci.rr.com
www.cincinnati.rightrighttolife.org

Healthy Moms & Babies

2270 Banning Road Suite 200
Cincinnati, OH 45239
(513) 591-5600
Kathleen Brogle, Director
office@healthymomsandbabes.org
hmbdirector@healthymomsandbabes.org

Western Hills T/W	8:00 am -4:00 pm
Thursday	12:00 - 8:00 pm
Over the Rhine M	8:00 am- 4:00 pm
Sharonville W/F	8:00 am - 4:00pm
Eastgate T/F	8:00 am- 4:00 pm
North M	8:00 am- 4:00 pm
College Hill Th	8:00 am- 4:00 pm

Healthy Beginnings

210 William Howard Taft Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45219-2611
Administrative phone: (513) 559-3412
Patient phone: (513) 861-8430
Donna Phelps, President
Cpdonna1991@aol.com

Eve Center-Mailing address

PO Box 36483
Cincinnati, OH 45236
(513) 251-1111
Cinny Roy, Director

Eve Center 2 locations:

4904 Glenway Avenue

Cincinnati, OH 45238

251-1111

6969 Montgomery Rd

Cincinnati, OH 45236

985-9959

Changes to this list please notify:

mboyd@catholiccincinnati.org

The asterisk () before a phone number indicates a 24 hour hotline.

Updated: 11/27/07

PROJECT RACHEL



PROJECT RACHEL
Project Rachel is a Post-Abortion Healing Ministry in the Catholic Church.
© 1995 Archdiocese of Cincinnati

**A post-abortion Healing
Ministry in the Catholic Church
513-784-0531 – Helpline
1-800-593-2273 – National Helpline**

Project Rachel was founded nationally in Milwaukee in 1984, and in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in 1994, and is presently in 140 dioceses internationally. For women and men who have lost a child through abortion.

- *“I made a private choice, but it became a secret burden...Time for a second choice...Choose to Accept God’s Love and Forgive Yourself.*
- **"I didn't think anyone would understand how I felt. I was so relieved to be able to share my experience with someone who understood what I was going through. No one condemned me. They understood and helped me forgive myself."**

Family Life Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati,
[http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/familylife/prolife.h
tm](http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/familylife/prolife.htm)

Public Events and Demonstrations for Life and Social Justice

Advocacy is often a way to enhance faith formation for a just cause. There are many opportunities for people to show their faith through physical actions. By their presence they are witnessing to Jesus that they care about a cause and that they love the people for whom they are advocating. In addition, participation in these efforts are formative to our faith, as they reflect Jesus and his disciples' public ministry. Below are just some of the regularly scheduled events and vigils in Cincinnati that offer this opportunity of advocacy:

- Bus Trip to Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on or around January 22, witnessing to the loss of almost 50 million babies to abortion, on the Anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand.
- Fort Benning, GA, the annual vigil at the School of the Americas (now known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation), which is held in November on the anniversary of the 1989 murders of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador.
- Catholic Conference of Ohio Legislative Advocacy Day, which takes place every two years in Columbus around April, when the state legislature is deciding on Ohio's biennial budget. It is organized by the CCO and coordinated locally by the Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Office.
- Witnessing for Life by praying once a month with Cincinnati Right-to-Life outside Planned Parenthood.
- Death Penalty vigils are often organized by organizations like the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center whenever an execution takes place in our state.
- Each Good Friday, in downtown Cincinnati, there is a "Way of the Cross, Way of Justice" event.
- Annual vigil for the victims of the nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki are organized by IJPC in August.
- Archdiocese of Cincinnati World Day of Peace Mass on January 1 is an annual opportunity for everyone to pray for peace in our own lives, communities and world.
- Martin Luther King Day is celebrated in Cincinnati each year with marches, vigils and prayer services.

Social Ministry Catalog of Gifts at Nativity Parish

The following is an example by Paul Hoeting of Nativity Parish on how Catholic Social Teaching principles could apply to any parish ministry.

The goals of the Catholic Social Teaching convocation and future parish coordination are:

- To affirm that all social ministries currently in our parishes are rooted in CST, and
- To empower key leaders in our parishes to weave the seven themes of CST into the fabric and identity of parish life.

1. **Life** and dignity of the human person
2. Call to **family**, community, and participation
3. **Rights** and **responsibilities** to private property
4. Option for the **poor** and vulnerable
5. The dignity of **work** and the rights of workers
6. **Solidarity** of one human family and subsidiarity in social structures
7. Care for God's **creation**

In our parishes, these themes become real by integrating them into these main actions:

- a. Anchoring Social Ministry: **Prayer and Worship**
- b. Sharing the Message: **Preaching and Education**
- c. Supporting the "Salt of the Earth": **Family, Work, Citizenship**
- d. Serving the "Least of These": **Outreach and Charity**
- e. Advocating for Justice: **Legislative Action**
- f. Creating Community: **Organizing for Justice**
- g. Building Solidarity: **Beyond Parish Boundaries**

Most simply, our purpose is to instill Pope Benedict's teachings on the three elements of our Catholic Faith into all of our daily lives:

- 1) **Preach the gospel,**
- 2) **Celebrate the sacraments/liturgy, and**
- 3) **Exercise all the ministries of charity.**

We must be careful to **treat all ministries as equal** in importance.

While the ministries on the following page provide a good cross section of one parish, they do not identify the outcomes (the effect on the parish members or the larger community).

It would be helpful for a parish to conduct an inventory of its members, to determine by volunteer survey, the roles its members serve in social teaching, in business, nonprofits and government agencies. Such information can help identify persons for special invitation to counsel and leadership roles within the parish.

Catalog of Gifts – A sampler of ministries(*) within a parish and which theme(s) they support
Can you connect the seven themes of CST ?

1. Art and Environment (2, 6, 7)

Enhance the visual atmosphere of our worship space according to the season.

2. Baptismal Preparation (1, 2, 6, 7)

Prepare to initiate their children into the Catholic Church through the sacrament.

3. Bereavement Ministry (1, 2, 6, 7)

This ministry provides a reassuring presence for individuals and their families at the end of life.

4. Boosters (1, 2, 6, 7)

Help parish youth to be instilled with a sense of good sportsmanship and Christian values. Help to shape and mold future leaders. Be a part of the total Catholic educational process.

5. The Caring Place (1, 2, 4, 6, 7)

Helping sort, package and distribute food, clothing and various other goods for needy people in our area, serving with a food pantry, a clothing closet, a GED program, JOY (Joining Our Youth) and by linking people to the faith communities in the neighborhood.

6. Catholic Men's Fellowship (1, 2, 6)

We are committed Catholic men who recognize our need for God's help. We gather in Christ's presence in an atmosphere of trust, equality, and confidentiality.

7. Children's Liturgy of the Word (1, 2, 3, 6, 7)

Use the Children's Liturgy to bring the word of the Gospel to children at a level that they can understand.

8. Cub Scouts (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7)

Offer a variety of ways to work with young boys.

Assist with community service projects, field trips.

9. Development Commission (2, 3, 6, 7)

Development is defined as the meaningful involvement of people in the mission and vision of the parish. Provide for the financial future of the parish beyond fund raising.

10. Driving Ministry (1, 2, 4, 6, 7)

Drive people to or from doctor's appointments, the grocery store or the bank.

Serve to those parishioners that are unable to drive permanently or temporarily due to accidents or surgery, etc.

11. Early Childhood Education (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7)

Share your faith traditions in basic terms with children ages 3-5 years old.

12. Education Commission (1, 2, 6, 7)

Advise the Pastor and his Staff as they set policy and create a vision for all education in the parish: Includes Adult Faith Formation, the Parish Grade School, the Parish School of Religion (PSR), the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), parish-sponsored sports activities run by the Parish Boosters and the Nativity Players theater group.

13. Eucharistic Ministers (1, 2, 4, 6, 7)

Distribute the Body and Blood of Christ during our liturgies and take Communion to the shut-ins of the parish.

14. Facilities Commission (3, 5, 6, 7)

Keep buildings and building systems to be the best they can be.

Assess the needs of the parish's facilities and to figure out ideal solutions to whatever needs are discovered, to address all age groups and physical disabilities.

15. Garden Adopt -A-Plot (5, 7)

Bloom where you have planted and share the beauty of new growth with the whole parish.

16. Girl Scouts (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7)

Share your skills and talents in the world of the arts, outdoors, technology, cultural heritage, or health and safety while helping girls grow up to be caring, competent, confident women. Serve as troop leaders and as coordinators for neighborhood events.

17. The Giving Tree (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7)

Identify individuals through other organizations who would be in most need of a gift Needs parishioners to provide gifts for the names on the Giving Tree and to help sort or deliver gifts during the week following the Third Sunday of Advent.

18. Greeters/Ushers (2, 6)

Sometimes the Greeters/Usher is the very first person a new parishioner meets.

That initial welcome can make a lasting first impression.

Help with seating arrangements, collections, bulletins, and other materials.

19. Health Ministry (1, 2, 4, 6, 7)

From a wide range of health professions including nurses, dietitians, massage therapists, physicians, dentists and social workers, plan health promotion programs, and offer on-going programs as well as special health events.

20. Lectors/Proclaimers of the Word (2, 6)

Share God's word with others at Mass.

Parishioners with clear speaking voice are needed to proclaim the first and second readings at Sunday liturgies.

21. Liturgy Preparation (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Make the liturgy more meaningful.

Have knowledge of scripture and Catholic rites.

Combine a number of ideas into a great idea.

Coordinate scripture readings, music, and the work of the Arts and Environment.

22. Marriage Ministry (1, 2, 3, 6, 7)

Help engaged couples prepare for a strong start in their marriage by sharing your experiences of marriage of at least five years.

23. Music Ministry (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Enhance our liturgies through prayerful singing (choir) and instrumental accompaniment.

24. Fall Festival (2, 3, 6, 7)

Work with new friends and old to benefit the parish through the festival weekend.

25. Nativity Players (2, 6)

Provide an open and welcoming atmosphere of entertainment, education, and opportunity through the theatre and performing arts, for the parish and community at large.

26. Nativity Scene (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7)

Spread the good news. Provide information about the parish, about parishioners and about the Catholic Church each month through writing, photography, editing, and design.

27. Nativity School (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Help assure that a Catholic Grade School be available to children of the parish. Assist the school in achieving its educational goals. Two wonderful organizations provide our core of volunteers: the School Committee and the PTA.

28. Pastoral Council (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Working in a spirit of prayer, shared responsibility, and consensus building, the Council looks to the mission and spiritual welfare of the parish. It works with the pastor in developing pastoral goals and promoting spiritual growth and renewal in the parish.

29. Peace and Justice Commission (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Our mission is to deepen our awareness of the compassionate, peaceful people God calls us to be. We aim to educate ourselves, educate others in and beyond the parish, and do hands-on service in order to create justice in our community and the world at large. We work to empower parishioners to join in living the Gospel more fully.

30. Parent Teacher Association (PTA) (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7)

Our members volunteer their time in the classrooms, on the playground, working with the students in our Land Lab or in our Publishing Center. Assist in the various fund-raisers throughout the year to provide for many things not covered by tuition.

31. Principals Committee (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Use a forward-thinking approach to create programs, change policies, and enhance the home-school connection now and for our school of the future..

32. Religious Education Committee (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Assess and meet the religious needs of the Parish through educational programs. Our volunteers put a high priority on learning more about our faith's good news, and how it asks us live out our faith.

33. Sacristans (2, 3, 4)

Sacristans make sure that the "tools" of the Mass are ready for Mass by setting up the altar, books, wine, and hosts prior to mass, then they put everything away after mass.

34. St. Ann's Altar Society (1, 2, 4, 6, 7)

Our women's group tries to show a little compassion and love to a forgotten one. We help with details of preparing baptismal robes, mending, and laundering vestments and altar linens. We assist the church, visit nursing homes, and support one another in prayer and friendship.

35. Servers (2, 4, 5, 6)

Servers provide a necessary function by assisting the priest during mass. This can also be a family activity to assist at Sunday masses.

36. Society of St. Vincent de Paul (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Our mission is to provide "*Threads of Help*" to the needy of the immediate communities as well as support of the Cincinnati Council in county-wide activities.

The three main elements of our members are personal spiritual growth, friendship with each other and the needy in our area, and service, as instruments of God's mercy, for spiritual and emergency temporal help, through home visits. Members who wish to devote their time and assistance to visiting the sick and shut-ins, may be coordinated by our Visiting Ministry. Primary financial support is provided through a second collection twice per month.

37. Toddler Room (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Help provide a safe happy place for 1,2 and 3-year old children to stay while their parents attend 9 a.m. Sunday mass.

38. Stewardship Committee (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

We enable and encourage parishioners to take part in the ministry of the church by sharing their gifts of time, talents, and treasures. We communicate the vision of what it means to be good stewards by focusing on three aspects of stewardship: Prayer, Ministry, and Offering.

39. Welcoming Committee (1, 2, 4, 6)

This ministry is one that must be performed by every member of the parish community, not reserved only for those who join a committee. Being welcomed means being greeted, being recognized, being valued, being needed. Help with hosting Welcoming Sundays and actively encourage new members to join your group.

40. The Worship Commission (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Our Commission promotes prayer life at Nativity. Coordinating the growth and development of spirituality renewal, this commission oversees the planning of liturgical celebrations, and the education, training and implementation of liturgical ministries.

41. Your Basic Food Group (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7)

This Group delivers meals to any family in the Nativity community general area, but especially Parishioners, who are experiencing family sickness, hospitalization or the birth of a new baby.

* Each of the ministries outlined in this catalog for Church of the Nativity of Our Lord (Pleasant Ridge) began because a specific need was identified. As a parish continues to grow and change, new needs will be recognized and with them new opportunities will be born to reach out to our parish and the community. If you wish to have this outline with additional detail please request it from Paul Hoeting by contacting the Catholic Social Action Office.