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“Parish social action should flow clearly from our faith. It is Jesus who calls us to this task. Social ministry is an expression of who we are and what we believe; it must be anchored in the Scriptures and church teaching. With the eyes of faith, we see every “crack baby” or person with AIDS, every Haitian refugee or Salvadoran immigrant, every victim of unjust discrimination, and every person combating addiction as a child of God, a sister or brother – as Jesus in disguise. These are not simply social problems, economic troubles, or political issues. They are moral tragedies and religious tests. Parish social ministry is first and foremost a work of faith.”

“The social mission of the parish begins in the gospel’s call to conversion; to change our hearts and our lives; to follow in the path of charity, justice, and peace. The parish is the place we should regularly hear the call to conversion and find help in answering the Lord’s call to express our faith in concrete acts of charity and justice.”

*Communities of Salt and Light – United States  
Conference of Catholic Bishops 1993*

# Social Justice Committee



**St. Joseph-on-Carrollton Manor**

**PO Box 33**

**Buckeystown, MD 21717**

**Phone: 301-663-0907**

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## Mission Statement

The Social Justice Committee will, through advocacy, education, and cooperation, defend human life, human rights, and human dignity; minister to our parish community; and promote responsible stewardship of our natural resources and environment. It will work cooperatively with like groups in the community and will, through word and example, call forth the people of St. Joseph-on-Carrollton Manor to participate in the accomplishment of this work.

## Our Goal

We will empower our parish community to be agents of peace and justice — following the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

## Our Objectives

1. Raise awareness of issues concerning social justice through education, advocacy and service in collaboration with other ministries, area parishes, and community organizations.
2. Deepen the understanding of the principles of Catholic Social Teachings and how they are rooted in Scriptures and in Jesus’ ministry.
3. Distinguish between the concepts of charity and justice.

## Social Justice Committee Issues and Concerns

- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Catholic Schools
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Child Protection
- Criminal Justice
- Death Penalty
- Economic Justice
- Environment
- Faithful Citizenship
- Family Life
- Global Solidarity
- Health Care
- Housing
- Immigration
- Landmines
- Legislative Education
- Migrants and Refugees
- Peacemaking
- Politics
- Poverty
- Racism
- Respect for Life
- Violence
- Voting

# Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

*“I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness.”  
(John 10:10)*

**The Church’s social teaching calls us to build a just society and to live lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a long tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents rooted in scripture. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents.**

**The Church has identified 7 principle themes of social teaching. They are:**

**The Life and Dignity of the Human Person.** All human life is sacred and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of our vision for society.

**Call to Family, Community, and Participation.** The person is not only sacred but also social, and so society must

be organized to support the dignity of the person.

**Rights and Responsibilities.** All persons have the right to life and the responsibility to promote a just society.

**Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.** Society must always support and lift up the poor and the vulnerable.

**The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers.** The economy must serve people, not the other way around. All men and women have the right to just and decent wages and a safe working environment.

**Global Solidarity.** We are all one family regardless of race, creed or national origin.

**Care for God’s Creation.** We must protect and promote all of creation.



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