

Catholic Social Teaching and the Parish Assessment Tool

Yes	No	I don't know	Prayer and Worship; Preaching
			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 liturgy 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 peace, justice, truth, and love.
			Our parish celebration of Advent allows us to pray and reflect on themes of hope, justice and peace in the world.
			Our celebration of Christmas, the mystery of the incarnation, challenges us to respect the 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 social justice themes.
			Homilists do not hesitate to challenge the assembly with their Christian responsibility to bring about a more peaceful and just society.
			The parish bulletin includes a notice or insert on social justice issue and the Church's social teaching (local issues, something from CT Catholic Conference or Catholic Relief Services).
			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.

Yes	No	I don't know	Prayer and Worship; Preaching Continued
			The church building and adjacent public buildings are accessible to persons with physical disabilities.
			Inclusive language is used in homilies and in the prayers of the faithful.
Our parish observes these national observance with prayer and/or utilizes them as teachable moments			
			World Day of Peace – January 1
			National Migration week-cultural diversity; immigration
			Martin Luther King Day – Racial Justice
			Earth Day – Ecological Awareness
			Mothers Day/Fathers Day – Family as Teacher of Justice
			Memorial Day – Peace
			July 4 th – Liberty and Justice for All
			Respect Life Sunday – Consistent Ethic for Life
			World Mission Sunday – Global Awareness
			Thanksgiving –World hunger
Yes	No	I don't know	Education
			The parish offers at least one adult educational event each year concerning some aspect of Catholic social teaching.
			Care is taken that parish social events and/or programs are accessible to all parishioners, regardless of income status.
			The parish's literature rack and/or resource library includes materials on justice and peace.
Students are regularly involved in specific projects that apply Catholic Social Teaching.			
			Religious Education (RE)
			Youth
A respect for all creation is incorporated into the following curriculum(s):			
			RE
			Youth
Parish youngsters are invited to participate in service and advocacy projects.			
			RE
			Youth

Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford

Yes	No	I don't know	Education Continued
Programs open to all adult parishioners have been presented during the last five years in the following areas of Catholic Social Teaching:			
			Economics
			Work and workers' rights
			Human rights
			Peace and international justice
			Political responsibility
			Society's responsibility to the poor and vulnerable
			Stewardship of creation
			Racial justice
			Consistent ethic of life
Faith groups promoted and supported by the parish utilize material that has a social ministry action component:			
			Scripture study groups
			RCIA
			Small faith communities
An in-service program is offered every two or three years to the following teachers in an area of Catholic Social Teaching:			
			Religious Education (RE)
			Youth
The religion curriculum incorporates Catholic Social Teaching in a way appropriate for the particular age group:			
			RE
			Youth
Parish youngsters are invited to participate in service and advocacy projects.			
			RE
			Youth

Yes	No	I don't know	Social Ministry
A. Methods and Procedures of Parish Groups			
			The parish has social ministry groups. If yes, please list:
			These groups communicate with the parish through the parish bulletin or through other means.
			There are links between these groups and the parish council.
			Members of social ministry groups meet regularly with members of other ministries.
			The parish 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 both social service 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.
			All members of the parish are invited to join a ministry in some manner, and on a continuing basis.
			Every attempt is made to ensure a just wage for parish personnel in light of the Bishops' letter on the economy.
			The Finance Committee makes every effort to balance priorities, to be cost effective as well as responsive to human needs.
			Considerations of justice are used in evaluating the companies selected for parish business.
			Generosity with the Bishops' Overseas Appeal, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Peter's Pence and the Retirement Collection for Women and Men Religious is encouraged from the pulpit.
			The total collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Bishops' Overseas Appeal is donated per diocesan guidelines.

B. Outreach and Charity			
Yes	No	I don't know	
			Parish social ministry groups carry out emergency need projects, e.g., canned food drives. If yes, please give examples.
			When possible, the parish participates in ecumenical community efforts to help the poor, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.
			The parish provides support groups for widows, divorced and separated persons, and persons struggling with chemical dependency.
			The parish tithes a certain percentage of parish income for social service, social action and mission work.
			Parish social ministry groups address long-term needs, e.g., care of the homebound. If yes, please give examples.
			Parish groups undertake special projects, e.g., housing rehabilitation. If yes, please give examples.
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 parish is involved in Catholic Relief Services, especially the Lenten program of CRS, Operation Rice Bowl.
The social action group encourages parish participation in legislative advocacy:			
			Letter writing
			Meeting with legislators
			Legislative training
			Other- please indicate:

D. Organizing for Justice			
Yes	No	I don't know	
			The social action group involves itself in community organizing on local issues.
			The social action group supports the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.
			Involvement in other human rights advocacy efforts
			The parish social action group participates in ecumenical coalitions.
E. Parish involvement in Archdiocesan Social Action Efforts			
			The parish social action group participates at least once a year in regional parish social ministry training, workshop, or conference.
			The social action group is part of the legislative information effort sponsored by the Connecticut Catholic Conference.
			The social action group obtains ideas or in other ways seeks the counsel of the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry undertaking social action projects.
			Members of the parish participate on a steering committee or team of the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry.
			Members of the parish attend the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry Annual Dinner.

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 Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry 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 the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry. Send your results to 81 Saltonstall Avenue, New Haven, CT 06513, fax at (203) 776-3233, or email to Lynn Campbell at lcampbell@oua-adh.org. Thank you.