

What is PARISHES IN ACTION?

PARISHES IN ACTION is a 5-week program designed to develop new social ministry efforts, or to assist already active social ministry committees in the integration of the social mission into the life of the parish.

Each session lasts 2 hours. It requires a minimum of 12 participants. Parishes may work together, but hosting parish must commit a minimum of 10 people in order to successfully create a parish social ministry plan. There is a program fee of \$15 per person.

Who should participate?

This program is most effective when the pastor, parish council members, deacons, stewardship and social ministry leaders, directors of religious education and other parish leaders participate. This program is also appropriate for anyone interested in social ministry.

How do I sign up?

First speak to your parish council and pastor. Then complete the interest form on the opposite page and return it to the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry. We will follow-up with a conversation with you and your pastor. We also have a PowerPoint presentation we make to parish councils.

More Information?

To learn more about PARISHES IN ACTION contact Lynn Campbell or Cori Thibodeau at the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry, (203) 777-7279.

What participants have to say

“An excellent resource assisting parishes with what can often be perceived as a daunting and misunderstood ministry.”

**Father Mark Suslenko, Pastor
St. Anthony Parish, Prospect**

“Extremely informative and the presentations were lively and very good. Totally worth your while.”

St. Francis Xavier, New Milford

“Our already-formed social action ministry needed a jump-start and a path for vision. We got that and more!”

**Joan Reynolds, social action
committee chairperson
Our Lady of Victory, West Haven**

“A well thought out and effective presentation”

St. Joseph Parish, Bristol

PARISHES IN ACTION is offered by

Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry

Archdiocese of Hartford

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New Haven, CT 06513

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Office for Catholic Social Justice
Ministry

PARISHES IN ACTION



Developing Effective Social Ministry

“Effective social ministry helps the parish not only do more but be more--more of a reflection of the gospel, more of a worshiping and evangelizing people, more of a faithful community. It is an essential part of parish life.”

U. S. Bishops
Communities of Salt and Light
Reflections on the Social mission of the Parish,
1993

Interest Form for PARISHES IN ACTION

Name: _____ Phone: _____ email _____

Parish: _____

Best time and method to reach me: _____

5 Engaging Sessions



Spiritual Formation: Session one explores Catholic social teaching, and the difference between charity and justice.

Relationship Building for Social Ministry: Are your numbers too small? Learn tools to build ministry from a leader of an organization which is working to break the cycle of poverty or other social injustices. Explore the Pastoral Circle as a means to understanding and acting on injustice and how the Catholic Campaign for Human Development serves as a response.



Advocacy and Global Solidarity: Explore how faithful citizenship calls us to address the root causes of injustice through legislative advocacy. The work of Catholic Relief Services will also be explored.

Being a Social Justice Parish: This session will further explore the integration of Catholic social teaching and social justice into the identity and ministries of the parish. Participants will learn how to utilize the *Communities of Salt and Light* document as a framework for parish social ministry.

Vision and Planning: Using what participants have learned and starting with the strengths and weakness of the current social ministry efforts, we will develop a plan for next steps.