

## January 2020 to December 2024 Strategic Plan

**Our Vision** *Social justice ministry will be integral in the life of every Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Hartford.*

**Our Mission** *The Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford advances Catholic social teaching by educating, preparing, and animating parishes to work for social justice.*

### **Strategic Priorities Summary**

#### **1. Strengthen Our Relationships with Clergy**

This priority acknowledges the fundamental role that the clergy plays in forming attitudes and actions of the Catholic faithful. It recognizes that if the clergy are engaged on the issues of social justice, that their parishioners will be more likely to be engaged as well. Clergy is purposefully inclusive of both Deacons and Seminarians.

This priority recognizes that pastors are partners in the mission of Jesus in the world. The role of the OCSJM is to assist pastors, providing guidance and support for such a partnership. It provides teaching tools to help their parishioners come to greater awareness of Catholic social teaching, and their parishes become, as Pope Francis says in *Evangelii Gaudium*, completely mission oriented.

#### **2. Develop Parish Ministers**

This priority recognizes that the clergy, while critical, have diverse responsibilities and commitments which limit their ability to execute social justice events and actions without lay leadership to support and administer programming. Parish ministers are laypeople who have an essential role in parish ministry. Vibrant parishes exist where resources are invested in ministry.

The OCSJM facilitates the formation and convening of parish ministers. It recognizes the benefits of gatherings to share ideas, best practices, and inspiration.

#### **3. Accompany Parish Work**

This priority recognizes that social justice requires a sustained effort that is not likely to be maximized without the long-term support of OCSJM. It assumes that relationship-based strategies are key components to accompaniment. This priority recognizes the office's capacity to foster encounters between parishes, outside organizations and those on the periphery (as identified by Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* as: the undocumented, the poor, the victims of abuse and prejudice, the farmer and factory worker, the elderly, the broken family).

The OCSJM serves as a source of information on Catholic social teaching in relationship to current issues. It honors the Catholic social teaching of subsidiarity, serving to lift up parish leadership in their social ministry efforts.

#### **4. Strengthen Financial Stability**

This priority acknowledges that long-term success requires a firm administrative foundation, including having the necessary financial resources to support the initiatives of OCSJM. It requires active participation of OCSJM Board members, and continued communication between the board and the executive director.