

PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY SCHEMA

MINISTRIES	NOVICE	PRACTITIONER	EXPERT
Religious Education	The social mission of the Church is talked about primarily in terms of charity and Christian service. There is no intentional effort to extend the idea of charity to social justice in parish religious education in school and parish programs.	The social mission of the Church is presented in terms of both justice and charity. At least one session during any education program is dedicated to explaining social justice principles, perhaps using Operation Rice Bowl, or through the celebration of national observances, such as MLK Day, which relate to the mission.	The social teachings of the Church are infused into the curriculum. Christian service projects are turned into service learning projects which incorporate reflection on the broader social issues and connect them to the Church's social teaching. Parishioners are offered a variety of adult education experiences that focus on social justice issues.
Prayer and Worship	The term "justice" is mentioned in the general intercessions and in the Scripture readings, but is not more fully developed in the rest of the liturgy.	Some hymns in the parish masses reflect social issues and the call to justice. All participants are welcomed, especially the physically challenged, people of color, strangers, the elderly, children and single people. A variety of people are represented among the liturgical ministries, including the physically challenged, the young and ethnic minorities.	The musical repertoire at all masses includes hymns which refer to justice and peace. The general intercessions of the liturgy are inclusive and consistently reflect the needs of the community and the people of God's responsibility to be agents of God's justice and peace.
Community Outreach	The parish has a food pantry and/or other direct services which help the most needy in the community.	The parish provides a number of programs to help empower and educate low-income people: ESL classes, after school tutoring programs, etc. The marginalized are treated with respect during interactions with them and parishioners are concerned to hear their stories.	Parishioners are engaged in advocating with publicly elected officials for more "just" budgets which are compassionate, serve the human family, locally, nationally and globally, and serve the common good. An effort is made to ensure that parish volunteers engaged in charitable ministries learn about the structural issues that impact hunger and homelessness.
Homilies	The focus in the homilies is primarily on our personal relationship with God, or as we relate to the community in the most general way.	Homilists occasionally refer to peace and justice, although usually without reference to specific principles from Catholic social teaching.	Homilists regularly make connections between the readings of the day and principles from Catholic social teaching. Social action opportunities (advocacy campaigns, service projects) are regularly referred to in homilies as vehicles for acting on our faith.

			Parishioners are challenged to be active in the public arena as an extension of their participation in worship.
Social Justice Ministry	The parish has a small social justice committee which meets sporadically and plans some events, such as blanket drives for the homeless. No budget is attached to the social justice committee.	The social justice committee is quite well organized with a set of core leaders, a mission statement, goals and objectives. The SJC provides opportunities to learn about public policy and advocacy issues of interest to the community and provides opportunities for involvement in appropriate civic engagement activities. Connections are made to groups such as Death Penalty Focus.	The social justice ministry is vibrant and integrated into all aspects of the parish life. It is funded at the same level of other parish ministries, such as liturgy and music. The parish gives social justice leaders many skills and training opportunities. The parish may be a member of a community organizing group, such as IAF or PICO, and parishioners receive intensive training in organizing and advocacy work. The parish may also be involved in interfaith advocacy work.
Building Solidarity Beyond Parish Boundaries	The parish is focused mainly on itself and on its own set of needs. At times of great crisis or tragedy, the parish will look beyond itself, usually through raising money for victims of a disaster.	Parishioners are challenged to get involved in global solidarity projects, such as Catholic Relief Service's ¹ Operation Rice Bowl and Hunger Banquets. A Pax Christi group may operate in the parish.	Parishioners are regularly challenged to reflect on their responsibilities to brothers and sisters beyond the parish boundaries. Global issues, like third world debt, deforestation, ethnic wars, are regularly included in the ministry activities of the parish. Parishioners recognize the need to take social action at the local, state, and national level and allocate time and resources accordingly. The parish may be a member of a community organizing group, such as IAF or PICO, or is actively engaged with a Catholic Campaign for Human Development ² funded group. The parish participates in events such as the annual action at School of the Americas.

Adapted by the Office of Justice and Peace, Archdiocese of Los Angeles from the Evaluating Social Justice Ministry Assessment developed by the Office of Social Justice, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

¹ Catholic Relief Services is the official international relief and development agency of the US Catholic community. More information on CRS is available at their website at www.catholicrelief.org or through the Office of Justice and Peace at (213) 637-7560.

² Catholic Campaign for Human Development is a program of the US Catholic Bishops which assists people to rise out of poverty through empowerment and activities that foster self-sufficiency. Find out more at their website at www.povertyusa.org or through the Office of Justice and Peace at (213) 637-7560.

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