

St. Thomas More Catholic Community Social Ministries

SOCIAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION

Parish Social Ministry

- * Welcome Sundays
- * Tele-Welcoming
- * Bereavement
- * Parishioner Info Book
- * Volunteer Programs
- * Ministers of Care
- * Food/Rent Assistance
- * Small Church Comm.

Valentine's Handouts

Trunk or Treat

Community Social Ministry

- * Sandwiches for Homeless
- * Delmar Nursing Home
- * Cottages Nursing Home
- * Mira Loma Nursing Home
- * Food Rent Assistance
- * Kid to Kids Books

- * Living Grace Home
 - * St. Theresa's Center

Family Promise*

Hope for The Holidays

Christmas In the Fall

Safe-4-A-Day

Blood Drive*

Food Drive

Advent Outreach

Faces of Hunger

Religious Ed. Outreach

L.I.G.H.T. Work Camp

Walk for Life

M.O.M.S. Baby Shower

Veterans' Hospital

Back to School Drive (HACA)

Easter Baskets/Catholic Charities

Baby Bottles Women's Resources

Food Sorting at P.O.

Thanksgiving Outreach

Diocese LV Rural Parish Appeal
2ND COLLECTION

Ash Wednesday/Catholic Charities
2ND COLLECTION

National Social Ministry

- * Troop Support
- * Voter Registration

Catholic Communications/ University
2ND COLLECTION

Catholic Campaign - Human Development
2ND COLLECTION

Seminary/Clergy Ed & Development
2ND COLLECTION

Retirement Fund For Religious
2ND COLLECTION

Pro-Life Walk for Life
SPECIAL COLLECTION

International Social Ministry

- * Belize Medical Mission
- * World Vision Water
- * Hekima Lenten Campaign
- * Fair Trade

Church Aid - Latin America/Central & Eastern Europe
2ND COLLECTION

Catholic Relief Services
2ND COLLECTION

Good Friday, Holy-land
2ND COLLECTION

Peter's Pence
2ND COLLECTION

Mission Appeal
2ND COLLECTION

Black & Indian Missions
2ND COLLECTION

World Mission Sunday
2ND COLLECTION

On-going Ministries/Activities
 Year-long Projects

Once/Twice*-a Year/Qtr Events

Funded via 2nd Collection
 Funded via Special Collection

St. Thomas More Catholic Community

Social Ministries

MISSION: On behalf of the St. Thomas More Catholic Community, in support of our Parish Vision, and guided by Gospel and Church teachings, we are dedicated to promoting fairness and equity by working to ensure the welfare, dignity, and basic human rights of all people through increased awareness, on-going education, and Christian acts of service to those in need.

*“What so ever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me”....
(Need to find citation or perhaps use another bible quote....)*

As Disciples of Jesus We Pledge to:

Serve those in need by sharing our time, talents, and treasures.

Open our hearts and minds to love and honor all of God’s children in the name of Jesus.

Collaborate with other stakeholders in caring for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Inspire others to join our mission of carrying out the teachings of our Lord.

Advocate for change, representing those not able to represent themselves.

Lead by example and live justly – at home, work, social arenas, and the marketplace.

Join in prayer regularly, giving thanks to God and asking for his blessings and guidance.

Understand the issues so that we may increase awareness regarding fairness and equity.

Seek out opportunities to make a difference in our parish, community, country, and the world.

Transcend all boundaries – geographic and demographic - in the name of social justice.

Invoke all parishioners to work with us toward greater charity, justice, and peace.

Care for others as we would ourselves.

Educate ourselves and share information regarding Catholic social teachings.

Social Ministries Commission

WHO ARE WE?

The administrative, coordinating body for St. Thomas More Catholic (STM) Communities Social Ministries. The Commission is comprised of representatives from the Parish, Community, National, and International Social Ministries. Members at large (those not representing a formally recognized ministry) may also serve on the Commission at the discretion of the Commission Chairperson and Director of Social Ministry. Outreach Event Coordinators and representatives from STM Organizations are also invited to attend Commission meetings.

WHO DO WE SERVE?

- *STM Social Ministries (Parish, Community, National, International)
- *Established Outreach/Events groups
- *Parishioners
- *Parish Council
- *Pastors/Pastoral Staff

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE/RESPONSIBILITY/AUTHORITY?

Provide leadership and guidance

- *Set the tone and define the role of Social Ministries within the STM structure
 - Establish and Communicate overall Mission for STM Social Ministries
 - Create, Communicate and Live Guiding Values and Principles
 - Establish and communicate consistent structure/procedures/guidelines for:
 - Carrying out our Mission
 - Proposing new projects/events
 - Reporting updates from individual ministries
 - Requesting funding
 - Manage and communicate Social Ministries budget/funding
 - Facilitate approval process for new project/event proposals

Facilitate collaboration

- *Across and within the Social Ministries
- *With other Ministries and Organizations
- *With the Pastoral Staff and Parish Council
- *With parish, community, national, and international representatives

Coordinate across Ministries - reduce overlap/duplication; maximize resources

- *Maintain awareness of all activities
- *Provide assistance with scheduling
- *Maintain a Master calendar of events

Communicate/ disseminate information

- *To all stakeholders (Ministries, Parishioners, Pastoral Staff, Pastoral Council)
 - Social Ministry Info Booklet
 - STM "Org Chart" – connections throughout STM
 - Bulletin
 - Flyers
 - Emails

Maximize social justice education and awareness throughout the STM parish.

- *Ministry Fair
- *Bulletin (establish a regular section)
- *Seminars
- *Provide volunteer activities
- *Speakers at Mass

Act as advocates and provide support to ministries as needed

- *When requested, present requests on their behalf
- *Regularly communicate/survey ministries to find out what they need to succeed
- *Provide training and resources required to carry out their missions
- *Maintain formats/procedures to foster awareness, consistency, communication, fairness
- *Invite requesting ministries to participate in presentation to Pastors/Pastoral Staff
- *Assist in identifying/obtaining funding for approved projects

Provide inspiration and encouragement to engage in Social Justice Issues

- *To Social Ministries and the Parish at large
 - Informational meetings
 - Written communication
 - Leading by example
 - Teambuilding (Ministries)
 - Volunteer Appreciation (Ministries)

Solicit feedback/comments/ideas

- *From all stakeholders (Ministries, Parishioners, Pastoral Staff, Pastoral Council)
 - Bulletin
 - Surveys
 - Suggestion Box

WHAT ARE OUR GUIDING VALUES & PRINCIPLES?

The seven themes of Catholic Social Teachings (source: USCCB, *Co-Workers in the vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry*, Washington D.C., 2005; <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/>)

✦ LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and assisted suicide. The value of human life is being threatened by increasing use of the death penalty. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

✦ CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society in economics and politics, in law and policy directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. The family is the central social institution that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

✦ **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

✦ **OPTIONS FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE**

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

✦ **THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS**

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected – the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

✦ **SOLIDARITY**

We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world.

✦ **CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION**

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan; it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and planet, living our faith in relationship with God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

WHAT/WHO ARE OUR RESOURCES?

- *Creative Treasures
- *Pastoral Staff
- *Pastoral Council
- *Viatorians
- *Diocese

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP ROLES

This section is currently under development. Job descriptions will be created for each of the following roles:

- Chairperson
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer (currently the Director of Social Ministry or his designee)
- Representative to Pastoral Council
- Communication Liaison(s) to:
 - Ministries
 - Outreach Groups
 - Organizations
 - Other Commissions
 - Pastoral Council
 - Pastors/Pastoral Staff
 - Parish
 - Website – Parish
 - Website - Diocese
- Members (Reps from Ministries)
- Members (Individual Ministries, Outreach Groups)
- Members (at large)

CREATIVE TREASURES

Creative Treasures functions as the funding repository for monies collected/earned via specific programs and projects. Ministries may request that portions of this funding be allocated for projects/events. **NOTE: Placement of this function, as well as specific guidelines and procedures, are currently being developed for this process.**

BY-LAWS:

Currently under development.

INDIVIDUAL SOCIAL MINISTRIES

PARISH Social Ministry

MISSION: The Parish Social Ministry of STM has accepted the call to identify the needs of the people within our own parish community, and to develop and carry out various programs to meet those needs. This process will be done in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching to achieve the mission and goals of St. Thomas More, as outlined by our parish council and staff.

GOALS:

- 1) To develop systems/methods to meet the personal needs of STM Parishioners
- 2) To develop a stronger sense of community and fellowship amongst the parishioners of STM

COMMUNITY Social Ministry

MISSION: Through the St. Thomas More Catholic Community in the name of Jesus, we are called to work and pray for equal and fair treatment of all people throughout Southern Nevada by strengthening, supporting, educating, and empowering all those in need.

GOALS:

- 1) Educate ourselves and our parish as to the needs of our community.
- 2) Provide direct service and support to selected organizations, groups, individuals.

NATIONAL Social Ministry

MISSION: Recognizing that everyone in this country is equal as the children of God and to ensure that the St. Thomas More Catholic Community is aware of the issues effecting the catholic community of our nation. That we will reach out to those needing the help and support of our community when ever possible.

GOALS:

INTERNATIONAL Social Ministry

MISSION: To reach out across continents to our sisters and brothers through spirituality, friendship and service. To serve and use goodwill, mobilize resources and share our blessings to promote the dignity of human life through out the global community

GOALS: