**Resources and Links to Parish Social Ministry**

In the light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, the Office for Social Ministry (OSM) of the Diocese of Honolulu serves as a catalyst in helping to create parish communities that gives priority to the needs of poor and vulnerable people. The Office for Social Ministry provides assistance to parishes seeking to live out the Gospel call to love their neighbor as themselves and develop a social ministry that provides parishioners with opportunities to follow Christ through works of charity and justice, nurturing faith that reflects God's love in the world.

The references and links below, many from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) are intended to help develop or further strengthen your parish social ministry. Please feel free to contact the staff of the Office for Social Ministry. We are here to help you!

These resources are very helpful to parishes interested in starting, growing, and strengthening their parish social ministries.

**Developing Parish Social Ministry**

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* 1. **This is a "must-read" from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for parishes getting started in social ministry and for those that want to grow and build their ministries.**

[**Communities of Salt and Light**](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/saltandlight.shtml)is the working document from the U.S. bishops for pastors and parish leaders seeking to start and strengthen parish social ministry. It presents seven elements of the social mission of parishes as a framework for planning and assessing that ministry. Focused on the local parish, it encourages parishes to integrate Catholic social teaching into all areas of parish life.

It may also be purchased in hard copy from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops bookstore:

[**Communities of Salt and Light Paperback**](http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=685)– "Bishops' statement for pastors and parish leaders seeking to strengthen parish social ministry. Presents seven elements of the social mission of parishes as a framework for planning and assessing that ministry."

* 1. **Here are some tips and ideas for organizing your parish social ministry team.**

[**Organizing a Parish Social Ministry Coordination Team**](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/psmcoordteam.pdf) is a very practical seven-page document from the USCCB that can be downloaded for free. It will help you draw in parishioners to build a successful parish-based social ministry as envisioned in [Communities of Salt and Light](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/saltandlight.shtml) and includes models to help guide parishes.

* 1. **Both charity and justice should be part of parish social ministry.**

**The Two Feet of Love in Action** is a good graphic to illustrate that charity and justice are both part of parish social ministry. **The Two Feet of Love in Action** Facilitator’s Guide, flyer and brochure may be downloaded from the USCCB website,

* 1. **Now that you know the basics, this practical book will help you go further in visioning and developing your parish social ministry.**

[**Parish Social Ministry: Strategies for Success**](http://www.avemariapress.com/itemdetail.cfm?nItemid=466) (Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Ind.: 2001) by Tom Ulrich is filled with information to help you go further in developing your parish social ministry. Ulrich, who is with Catholic Relief Services, is a master at helping parishes finds practical ways to organize and develop their social ministry.

**Catholic Social Teaching**

* 1. **Catholic Social Teaching is organized into seven major themes.**

The [Church's social teaching](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.shtml) offers much wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through documents from the popes, councils, and bishops. [Cards with the themes printed may also be purchased](http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1235) from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

* 1. **New two-part video, *In the Footsteps of Jesus***, can be used to introduce Catholic Social Teaching in a wide variety of contexts and time frames. Part one (nine minutes) provides a comprehensive overview of the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching and brief Scriptural and historical context for its development. In part two (19 minutes) each theme is highlighted through the living examples of six extraordinary individuals and a couple who offer insight and inspiration as they share their commitments to promoting justice and peace in the world today.

In the Footsteps of Jesus video and resource manual may be ordered from the USCCB Internet site at [**www.usccb.org**](http://www.usccb.org)**.**

**7 This booklet focuses on the seven major themes of Catholic social teaching and is a good introduction for adults and high school-aged students.**

**In** [**Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions**](http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1336)**,** the bishops present a compelling explanation of how Catholic social teaching is central to keeping the Church strong and true to the gospel demand "to bring glad tidings to the poor." The work also provides easy to do recommendations for incorporating the seven themes of Catholic social teaching into Catholic education and formation.

* 1. **Lesson plans and resources for educators are available on the themes of Catholic social teaching.**

[Lesson plans and resources](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/foreducators.shtml) for all age levels from elementary to adult on the themes of Catholic social teaching and related topics are available through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

* 1. **A website designed for young adults introduces them to Catholic social teaching and the exciting and challenging world of social ministry.**

Introduce young adults to Catholic social teaching through a website especially designed for them by the USCCB:

[USCCB website for young adults](http://www.usccb.org/campus/)

Designed and formatted with young adults in mind, this website is an invitation to participate in transforming the world by putting our Catholic faith into action.

* 1. **Pope Benedict XVI has issued two major encyclicals on social teaching called Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth) and Deus Caritas Est. (God is Love).**

Pope Benedict’s first encyclical, Deus Caritas Est. (God is Love), speaks about charity (and justice) as the Church’s essential activities, along with the administration of the sacraments and the proclamation of the word: love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to her as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word.

Pope Benedict's third encyclical, [Caritas in Veritate](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/index_en.htm) is a call to see the relationship between human and environmental ecologies and to link charity and truth in the pursuit of justice, the common good, and authentic human development. Free study and action guides, outlines, reflections and other [material related to Caritas in Veritate](http://www.usccb.org/jphd/caritasinveritate/) are also available through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

* 1. **Just about everything you want to know about Catholic Social Teaching is available on the web, including encyclicals and other teaching documents. A good place to start is the** [**U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website**](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp)**.**
     1. [Foundational documents from the Vatican and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/foundationdocs.shtml)
     2. [Quotes on Catholic Social Teaching](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/cstquotes.shtml)
     3. [Educational resources and lesson plans for all ages.](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/foreducators.shtml)

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