

Living the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Life in the Christian Community. . .

"...The community of believers was of one heart and mind and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all..." Acts 4:32, 33

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community and Participation
 - Rights and Responsibilities
 - Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
 - Solidarity
 - Care for God's Creation



SOME PLACES TO CONTACT FOR HELP

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Oahu: 521-HELP
 (Intake, Information & Referral)
 536-1794
 (Family Services)
 Kauai: 246-2400
 Big Island: 959-7985
 (Community & Immigrant Services)

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

1-800 499-4302

LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Oahu: 836-3600
 Hawaii: 935-3050
 Maui: 877-4357
 Kauai: 246-3809

SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER

Oahu: 545-2740
 Hawaii: 934-7356

CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS

Oahu: 587-5266
 East HI: 959-0669
 West HI: 327-4755
 Maui & Lanai: 243-5866
 Molokai: 553-1747
 Kauai: 241-3660

OSM'S PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM

Oahu: 263-8844 x334, 302
 Big Island: 935-3050
 Maui County: 244-8106
 Kauai: Toll free 1-877 935-3050

The Office for Social Ministry
 Diocese of Honolulu

FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSE TO PARISHES REGARDING WELFARE REFORM

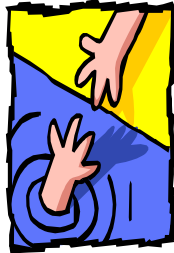


"... helping parishes maintain, strengthen and sustain healthy family life ..."
(Synod Proposal #4, Diocese of Honolulu)

What is Welfare Reform?

In 1996, President Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. As a result, qualified families receiving welfare cash benefits will only be allowed to do so for a life-time limit of 5 years (60 months). Food Stamp Allocation, Medical Coverage (Quest) and Child Care will remain intact even after cash benefits are discontinued.

States were granted flexibility by the Federal Government to include waivers and exemptions. The State of Hawaii implemented the Pursuit of New Opportunities or **PONO** program designed to serve Hawaii TANF recipients. Exemptions however, are being provided to persons with disabilities, caregivers to persons with disabilities and families with infants under 6 months. Victims of domestic violence, substance abusers and persons with mental illnesses are also exempt provided they engage in treatment programs.



...seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable

GLOSSARY

TANF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (single parent household)

TAONF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (two parent household or non-resident)

GRANT + Program—\$650 salary subsidy program to businesses who hire persons receiving welfare assistance

PONO—Pursuit of New Opportunities

WELFARE REFORM AND ITS IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Families without their monthly cash assistance may experience . . .

- Difficulty with monthly rental payments
- An increase in latch-key children due to absentee parents
- Children's lack of motivation to excel in school and in extra-curricular activities due to increased stress in the home
- An increase in health risk due to limited financial resources for medical / health needs
- An increase in domestic violence due to emotional stress and strain
- Lower self-esteem resulting in disregard for family and/or societal structures (illegal activity)

PARISH PASTORAL RESPONSE—A FEW



SUGGESTIONS...

Parishes are called to "... help strengthen, nurture and sustain families and provide direct assistance or referral to support those in crisis" (Synod Proposal #4, Diocese of Honolulu).

"...if you have faith the size of the mustard seed...nothing will be impossible."

- Assist families in crisis by connecting them with community

resources

- Parishes can provide opportunities for developing job skills through volunteerism that can lead to gainful employment in the community



The family is the central social institution that must be supported and strengthened...

- Help identify business people at the parish and make them aware of Grant + opportunities
- Develop an "Adopt a Family" Program where the parish may work with families in addressing and resolving specific needs
- Identify families willing to give testimony working with legislative advocacy efforts lead by the Hawaii Catholic Conference and the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
- Increase food collection efforts to replenish diminishing pantry inventories
- Make available to families such support programs as day-care, respite and faith fellowship

The Office for Social Ministry Diocese of Honolulu

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Maui County:	95 Mahalani Street Wailuku, HI 96793
Kauai:	Forward requests to any address listed above