

we are salt and light

Assessment Tool

Pray Together

1. We root our work for justice in prayer and in our relationship with God, who loves those who are poor and vulnerable.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

2. We pray together (through Scriptural reflection, Prayers of the Faithful, etc.) for those who are vulnerable in our local and global communities.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

3. We share Christ's call to conversion, discipleship and love for neighbors through Scriptural reflection, homilies, preaching, and/or other formation opportunities.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

4. Our liturgical celebrations and/or common prayer acknowledge Christ's presence in the community and lead to sending forth on mission in daily life.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

5. Music for prayer, worship, and/or reflection reinforces the call to discipleship and mission.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

6. We help those preparing to be initiated into the Christian community (and their sponsors or parents and godparents) to understand Baptism as being incorporated into the Body of Christ and sent on mission.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

7. We help our community members examine their attitudes, words, actions, and inactions that affect our relationships with God, self, and neighbor.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

8. We help those preparing to be Confirmed to understand that the Holy Spirit calls them to be witnesses and to carry out a mission of love and service.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!



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9. We help couples preparing for marriage understand the call to imitate Christ's love, self-gift and service towards one another, their families and the world.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

Reach Out Together

10. We foster opportunities for encounter and relationship between and among members of our faith community.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

11. Our community welcomes newcomers, persons with disabilities, people of diverse ethnicities and cultures, immigrants, spouses of other denominations, single adults, divorced and widowed persons, elderly persons, and children.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

12. We foster opportunities for encounter between members of our community and the "least of these" in our neighborhood, city, and/or wider community.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

13. Our community helps cultivate a sense of solidarity with the global church.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

14. We reach out to people who live in the geographic area surrounding our community—including those of diverse cultures, backgrounds and economic statuses—to take part in our community's life, worship, and/or activities.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

15. We work to cultivate diverse leaders representative of the ethnicities, cultures, income levels, and ages of people in our community.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!



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16. We help emerging leaders develop leadership skills, such as running meetings, planning, recruiting volunteers, etc.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

17. We connect with others (leaders, community organizations, other faith communities, etc.) who are working to address issues in the community.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

Learn Together

19. We connect formation (i.e. religious education, catechetical formation, sacramental preparation, adult education, etc.) with the call to mission in the world as Christ's disciples.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

20. We integrate Catholic social teaching into our education and formation programs.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

18. We have relationships with communities of other faith traditions.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

21. Our communication tools (emails, newsletters, bulletins, etc.) regularly speak about our call to discipleship and mission in the world.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

22. We provide opportunities for children and teens to learn about and respond to issues that impact those who are poor and vulnerable.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!



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23. We integrate into our faith formation activities global concerns and solidarity with our human family around the world.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

24. We seek to understand more deeply the issues that affect those in poverty and develop a strategy to respond.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

Act Together

26. Social justice is an integral piece of our efforts for the new evangelization.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

27. We respond generously to emergency and ongoing situations, both local and global.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

25. We offer opportunities for prayerful discernment of how we are called to respond to needs both locally and globally.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

28. We engage in charitable works that meet basic, short-term needs (food, clothing, shelter etc.) and also foster long term self-sufficiency.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

29. Our service programs connect volunteers with opportunities to change the conditions that create poverty and injustice.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!



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30. If applicable, twinning (or “sister” relationships with parishes, dioceses, or communities in other countries) is based on mutual giving and receiving by both parties.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

31. We lift up service and justice as means for strengthening family relationships, including between spouses and between parents and children.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

32. We provide concrete ideas and opportunities for our community members to live their faith in work, family, marriage or single life, and in everyday decisions and actions.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

33. We help business owners, managers, workers, and consumers to live their faith in the workplace.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

34. We put Gospel values in action through our purchasing choices and encourage others to do the same.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

35. As a community or organization, we allocate a designated percentage of our funds to both direct service (charitable works) and long-term solutions (social justice) activities.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

36. Our organizational policies (employment, compensation, due process, etc.) are implemented in a way that reflects the Church's teaching about human dignity, rights and justice.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

37. We communicate our values to the public arena through letter writing, calling or visiting elected officials, or other forms of advocacy.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!



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38. We participate in national, regional and local efforts to communicate our concerns and values to public policymakers.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

39. We model care for God's creation by taking practical steps to be good stewards, such as conserving energy, purchasing sustainable products, reducing consumption, recycling, etc.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

40. Our homilies, preaching and/or teaching focus not only on disciples' individual relationship with God, but also on their call to be disciples on mission in daily life.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

41. Homilies, preaching, and/or teaching speak to concerns facing those who are vulnerable and invite response.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

42. We work with others in our community (organizations, places of worship, etc.) to understand and respond to problems and issues.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

43. We support local efforts to address the root causes of poverty in our community, especially those efforts led by the people most impacted by the problems being addressed.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!

44. We engage in self-evaluation of our efforts to be a community of salt and light.

- I don't think this applies
- Not really
- Some of the time
- Most of the time
- Yes, we do!



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Recommended Resources

After completing the assessments on the previous pages, return to your answers and identify those for which you indicated “not really” or “some of the time.” Then see below for resources to help you improve in that area.

Pray Together

Note: To access the online Helpful Resources listed below, go to: <http://WeAreSaltAndLight.org/assessments/pray> and click on the hyperlinks in the downloadable PDF.

1. We root our work for justice in prayer and in our relationship with God, who loves those who are poor and vulnerable.

Quote for Inspiration

“Our social ministry must be anchored in prayer, where we uncover the depths of God’s call to seek justice and pursue peace.”
- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

Helpful Resources

[Nine Ways to Pray](#)
[Prayers for Life and Dignity](#)
[Scriptural Rosary for Justice and Peace](#)
[Justice-themed popular religious celebrations lead to wide Hispanic engagement](#)

2. We pray together (through Scriptural reflection, Prayers of the Faithful, etc.) for those who are vulnerable in our local and global communities.

Quote for Inspiration

“The most important setting for the Church’s social teaching is not in a food pantry or in a legislative committee room, but in prayer and worship, especially gathered around the altar for the Eucharist. It is in the liturgy that we find the fundamental direction, motivation, and strength for social ministry.”
- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

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Helpful Resources

[Linking Liturgy and Justice](#)

[The Eucharistic Liturgy: Formed, Transformed, and Sent](#)

[Prayers for Life and Dignity](#)

[Resources for the World Day of Peace \(Jan. 1\)](#)

[As executions continue, youth pray for life and dignity](#)

[Catholics gather to pray and act for an end to trafficking](#)

3. We share Christ's call to conversion, discipleship and love for neighbors through Scriptural reflection, homilies, preaching, and/or other formation opportunities.

Quote for Inspiration

"Week after week, day after day, the lectionary calls the community to reflect on the scriptural message of justice and peace."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

Helpful Resources

[Preaching the Mystery of Faith: the Sunday Homily](#)

[Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching](#)

[Preach Solidarity: CRS Global Fellows](#)

4. Our liturgical celebrations and/or common prayer acknowledge Christ's presence in the community and lead to sending forth on mission in daily life.

Quote for Inspiration

"The Eucharist is the sacrament of communion that brings us out of individualism so that we may follow him together, living out our faith in him. Therefore we should all ask ourselves before the Lord: how do I live the Eucharist?"

- Pope Francis, Corpus Christi Homily, 5/30/13

Helpful Resources

[Linking Liturgy and Justice](#)

[Eucharist and Social Mission: Body of Christ, Broken for the World](#)

[The Eucharistic Liturgy: Formed, Transformed, and Sent](#)

5. Music for prayer, worship, and/or reflection reinforces the call to discipleship and mission.

Quote for Inspiration



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The Eucharist] spurs us on our journey through history and plants a seed of living hope in our daily commitment to the work before us. Certainly the Christian vision leads to the expectation of 'new heavens' and 'a new earth' (Rev 21:1), but this increases, rather than lessens, our sense of responsibility for the world today. I wish to reaffirm this forcefully at the beginning of the new millennium, so that Christians will feel more obliged than ever not to neglect their duties as citizens in this world. Theirs is the task of contributing with the light of the Gospel to the building of a more human world, a world fully in harmony with God's plan." - Pope John Paul II, *The Eucharist in Its Relationship to the Church (Ecclesia de Eucharistia)*, no. 20

Helpful Resources

[Linking Liturgy and Justice](#)

6. We help those preparing to be initiated into the Christian community (and their sponsors or parents and godparents) to understand Baptism as being incorporated into the Body of Christ and sent on mission.

Quote for Inspiration

"In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19)."

- Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel*, no. 120

Helpful Resources

[Baptism: Incorporated into Christ's Body, Sent on Christ's Mission](#)

7. We help our community members examine their attitudes, words, actions, and inactions that affect our relationships with God, self, and neighbor.

Quote for Inspiration

"There is no sin, not even the most intimate and secret one, the most strictly individual one, that exclusively concerns the person committing it. With greater or lesser violence, with greater or lesser harm, every sin has repercussions on the entire ecclesial body and the whole human family."

- Pope John Paul II, *Reconciliation and Penance in the Mission of the Church Today (Reconciliatio et Paenitentia)*, no. 16

Helpful Resources

[Examination of Conscience in Light of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
[Penance: Reconciled to Right Relationship, Called to Heal and Restore](#)
[Praying and acting to fight racism and division](#)



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8. We help those preparing to be Confirmed to understand that the Holy Spirit calls them to be witnesses and to carry out a mission of love and service.

Quote for Inspiration

"By virtue of Baptism and Confirmation we are called to conform ourselves to Christ, who is the Good Samaritan for all who suffer. 'We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another' (1 Jn 3:16). When we draw near with tender love to those in need of care, we bring hope and God's smile to the contradictions of the world. When generous devotion to others becomes the hallmark of our actions, we give way to the Heart of Christ and bask in its warmth, and thus contribute to the coming of God's Kingdom."

- Pope Francis, *Message for World Day of the Sick*, 12/6/13

Helpful Resources

[Confirmation: Strengthened by the Spirit, Called to Action](#)

9. We help couples preparing for marriage understand the call to imitate Christ's love, self-gift and service towards one another, their families and the world.

Quote for Inspiration

"The Christian family is thus called upon to offer everyone a witness of . . . dedication to social matters, through a 'preferential option' for the poor and disadvantaged. . . . [I]t must have special concern for the hungry, the poor, the old, the sick, drug victims and those who have no family."

- John Paul II, *The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World (Familiaris Consortio)*, no. 47

Helpful Resources

[Marriage: United in Love, Strengthened for Service](#)

[Marriage: A Vocation of Service Together](#)

[How to Include Service to Others in Your Wedding Ceremony](#)

[Practicing Solidarity as a Family](#)



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Reach Out Together

Note: To access the online Helpful Resources listed below, go to: <http://WeAreSaltAndLight.org/assessments/reach-out> and click on the links in the downloadable PDF.

10. We foster opportunities for encounter and relationship between and among members of our faith community.

Quote for Inspiration

“Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, received in Baptism, we are mystically united to the Lord as members of one body, of which he is the head. The image of the mystical body makes us realize the importance of strengthening our union with Christ through daily prayer, the study of God’s word and participation in the sacraments. Saint Paul tells the Corinthians that the Body of Christ, while one, is made up of a variety of members. Within the communion of the Church, and in union with the Pope and Bishops, each of us has a part to play, a gift to share, a service to offer, for building up the Body of Christ in love. Let us ask the Lord to help us reject every form of divisiveness and conflict in our families, parishes and local Churches. At the same time, let us ask for the grace to open our hearts to others, to promote unity and to live in harmony as members of the one Body of Christ, inspired by the gift of love which the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts.”
- Pope Francis, General Audience, 6/19/13

Helpful Resources

[Building Relationships, Creating a Culture of Encounter through One-to-Ones](#)
[Questions to Facilitate Encounter](#)
[Parish learns how to listen in the neighborhood](#)
[Hispanic encuentro for formation, leadership and response](#)

11. Our community welcomes newcomers, persons with disabilities, people of diverse ethnicities and cultures, immigrants, spouses of other denominations, single adults, divorced and widowed persons, elderly persons, and children.

Quote for Inspiration

“May the Church be a place of God’s mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live according to the good life of the Gospel. And to make others feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged, the Church must be with doors wide open so that all may enter. And we must go out through these doors and proclaim the Gospel.”
- Pope Francis, General Audience, 6/12/13

Helpful Resources



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[Encountering One Another in the Diverse Body of Christ](#)
[Webinar on Best Practices for Shared Parishes](#)
[Welcoming Our Brothers and Sisters with Disabilities](#)
[Friendship with visiting priest becomes parish-wide cultural embrace](#)

12. We foster opportunities for encounter between members of our community and the “least of these” in our neighborhood, city, and/or wider community.

Quote for Inspiration

“I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. . . My hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: 'Give them something to eat' (Mk 6:37).”
- Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel*, no. 49

Helpful Resources

[Plan a Journey to Justice Day](#)
[Building Relationships, Creating a Culture of Encounter through One-to-One Relational Meetings](#)
[Transformed by Eucharist, Sent on Mission: A Service Learning Retreat Experience](#)
[A school that builds bridges](#)
[Uniting a community through reaching out](#)
[Yakima seminarians take on “the smell of their sheep”](#)

13. Our community helps cultivate a sense of solidarity with the global church.

Quote for Inspiration

“Catholic social teaching more than anything else insists that we are one family; it calls us to overcome barrier of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, economic status, and nationality. We are one in Christ Jesus (cf. Gal 3:28) beyond our differences and boundaries.”
- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

Helpful Resources

[Called to Global Solidarity: International Challenges for U.S. Parishes | En Español](#)
[Take Action with Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#)
[CRS Resource Center](#)
[Discovering solidarity through mutual encounter in Guatemala](#)
[Students embrace global solidarity through CRS programs](#)



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14. We reach out to people who live in the geographic area surrounding our community—including those of diverse cultures, backgrounds and economic statuses—to take part in our community’s life, worship, and/or activities.

Quote for Inspiration

“The Church must step outside herself. To go where? To the outskirts of existence, whatever they may be, but she must step out. Jesus tells us: ‘Go into all the world! Go! Preach! Bear witness to the Gospel!’ (cf. Mk 16:15). . . In this ‘stepping out’ it is important to be ready for encounter.”

- Pope Francis, Q&A Session with members of the ecclesial movements, 5/18/13

Helpful Resources

[The Parish in the Neighborhood: Making the Word Become Flesh](#)
[Parish learns how to listen in the neighborhood](#)
[Seminarians visit farms, learn about rural challenges](#)

15. We work to cultivate diverse leaders representative of the ethnicities, cultures, income levels, and ages of people in our community.

Quote for Inspiration

“We are a very diverse community of faith—racially, ethnically, economically, and ideologically. This diversity should be respected, reflected, and celebrated in our social ministry.”

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

Helpful Resources

[Developing Diverse Leaders: Best Practices for Shared Parishes](#)
[Immigration team fosters participation and respect for human dignity](#)
[A multicultural vision for social justice](#)

16. We help emerging leaders develop leadership skills, such as running meetings, planning, recruiting volunteers, etc.

Quote for Inspiration

“Creative and competent leaders—clerical and lay, professional and volunteer—are indispensable for effective parish social ministry. They deserve more assistance, encouragement, financial support, and tools to help them fulfill these demanding roles. Leadership development efforts and ongoing training help parishes strengthen their social ministry capacity.”



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- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

Helpful Resources

[Skills Building](#)

[What Does a Well-Run Meeting Look Like?](#)

[Diocese trains rural leaders for discernment, leadership, evangelization and social justice](#)

17. We connect with others (leaders, community organizations, other faith communities, etc.) who are working to address issues in the community.

Quote for Inspiration

“Any Church community, if it thinks it can comfortably go its own way without creative concern and effective cooperation in helping the poor to live with dignity and reaching out to everyone, will also risk breaking down.”

- Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel*, no. 207

Helpful Resources

[See Where Community Development is Happening Near You](#)

[Meet Mary: An Introduction to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#)

[University helps students address community-identified needs and initiate social change](#)

18. We have relationships with communities of other faith traditions.

Quote for Inspiration

“Let Christians labor and collaborate with others in rightly regulating the affairs of social and economic life. . . . working toward the uplifting of human dignity, and toward better living conditions. Furthermore, let them take part in the strivings of those peoples who, waging war on famine, ignorance, and disease, are struggling to better their way of life and to secure peace in the world. In this activity, the faithful should be eager to offer prudent aid to projects sponsored by public and private organizations, by governments, by various Christian communities, and even by non - Christian religions.”

- Second Vatican Council, *Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church*, no. 12

Helpful Resources

[Encountering Other Faith Traditions](#)

[Collaborating with Other Faith Traditions](#)

[Generations of Faith: Interreligious, Intercultural, Intergenerational Dialogue](#)

[Catholic-Muslim Dialogue Leads to Respect, Understanding](#)



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Learn Together

Note: To access the online *Helpful Resources* listed below, go to: <http://WeAreSaltAndLight.org/assessments/learn> and click on the links in the downloadable PDF.

19. We connect formation (i.e. religious education, catechetical formation, sacramental preparation, adult education, etc.) with the call to mission in the world as Christ's disciples.

Quote for Inspiration

"Educators in parish schools, religious education, and formation efforts have special responsibility to share our tradition of social justice as an integral part of our faith. They shape the leaders of the future and by, their teaching and example share the social dimensions of our Catholic faith."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

Helpful Resources

[Learning Activities on Catholic Social Teaching](#)
[Sacraments and Social Mission: Living the Gospel, Being Disciples](#)
[A school that builds bridges](#)

20. We integrate Catholic social teaching into our education and formation programs.

Quote for Inspiration

"Our social doctrine is an integral part of our faith; we need to pass it on clearly, creatively, and consistently. . . Our social doctrine must also be an essential part of the curriculum and life of our schools, religious education programs, sacramental preparation, and Christian initiation activities. We need to share and celebrate our common social heritage as Catholics, developing materials and training tools that ensure that we are sharing our social teaching in every educational ministry of our parishes. Every parish should regularly assess how well our social teaching is shared in its formation and educational ministries."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

Helpful Resources

[Themes of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
[Foundational Documents of Catholic Social Teaching](#)



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[Reflections on Catholic Social Teaching](#)
[Learning Activities on Catholic Social Teaching](#)
[Elementary Storybooks on Faith in Action](#)
[Catholic school teaches care for God's creation](#)

21. Our communication tools (emails, newsletters, bulletins, etc.) regularly speak about our call to discipleship and mission in the world.

Quote for Inspiration

"My mission of being in the heart of the people is not just a part of my life or a badge I can take off; it is not an 'extra' or just another moment in life. Instead, it is something I cannot uproot from my being without destroying my very self. I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world. We have to regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising up, healing and freeing."

- Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel*, no. 273

Helpful Resources

[Themes of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
[Notes for Neighbors Newsletter](#)

22. We provide opportunities for children and teens to learn about and respond to issues that impact those who are poor and vulnerable.

Quote for Inspiration

"The ministry of justice and service nurtures in young people a social consciousness and a commitment to a life of justice and service rooted in their faith in Jesus Christ, in the Scriptures, and in Catholic social teaching; empowers young people to work for justice by concrete efforts to address the causes of human suffering; and infuses the concepts of justice, peace, and human dignity into all ministry efforts."

- U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry*

Helpful Resources

[Learning Activities on Poverty](#)
[Elementary Storybooks on Faith in Action](#)
[Teens put Catholic social teaching in action at youth retreat](#)
[Art in action! Youth use art to fight landmines](#)



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23. We integrate into our faith formation activities global concerns and solidarity with our human family around the world.

Quote for Inspiration

"Catholic communities of faith should measure their prayer, education, and action by how they serve the life, dignity, and rights of the human person at home and abroad. A parish's 'catholicity' is illustrated in its willingness to go beyond its own boundaries to extend the Gospel, serve those in need, and work for global justice and peace. This is not a work for a few agencies or one parish committee, but for every believer and every local community of faith. This solidarity is expressed in our prayer and stewardship, how we form our children and invest our resources, and the choices we make at work and in the public arena."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Called to Global Solidarity: International Challenges for U.S. Parishes*

Helpful Resources

[Activities on Global Poverty](#)

[Learn about Global Poverty](#)

[Resources for the World Day of Peace \(Jan. 1\)](#)

[Youth put faith in action through global solidarity](#)

24. We seek to understand more deeply the issues that affect those in poverty and develop a strategy to respond.

Quote for Inspiration

"In the Catholic tradition, concern for the poor is advanced by individual and common action, works of charity, efforts to achieve a more just social order, the practice of virtue, and the pursuit of justice in our own lives. It requires action to confront structures of injustice that leave people poor. Individual believers are called to be generous in sharing what we have with those in need and to promote justice through the choices we make in our families, schools, and workplaces, and through our participation in social and economic life."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *A Place at the Table: A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to Respect the Dignity of All God's Children*

Helpful Resources

[Stack of the Deck Illustration of the Root Causes of Poverty](#)

[Ending Poverty in Community \(EPIC\) Toolkit](#)

[Doing Social Analysis](#)

[JustFaith programs form leaders on mission](#)



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25. We offer opportunities for prayerful discernment of how we are called to respond to needs both locally and globally.

Quote for Inspiration

“It is up to the Christian community to analyze with objectivity the situation which is proper to their own country, to shed on it the light of the Gospel's inalterable words and to draw principles of reflection, norms of judgment and directives for action from the social teaching of the Church.”

- Pope Paul VI, A Call to Action, no. 4

Helpful Resources

[A Process for Group Discernment](#)

[Doing Social Analysis](#)

[Diocese holds encuentros to discern response to violence](#)



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Act Together

Note: To access the online Helpful Resources listed below, go to: <http://WeAreSaltAndLight.org/assessments/act> and click on the links in the downloadable PDF.

26. Social justice is an integral piece of our efforts for the new evangelization.

Quote for Inspiration

“The Church teaches that social justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the gospel, and an essential part of the Church’s mission.”

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

Helpful Resources

[The New Evangelization and Social Justice](#)

[Justice-themed popular religious celebrations lead to wide Hispanic engagement](#)

27. We respond generously to emergency and ongoing situations, both local and global.

Quote for Inspiration

“The Church’s teaching on international justice and peace is not simply a mandate for a few large agencies, but a challenge for every believer and every Catholic community of faith. The demands of solidarity require not another program, but greater awareness and integration into the ongoing life of the parish. The Church’s universal character can be better reflected in how every parish prays, educates, serves, and acts. A parish reaching beyond its own members and beyond national boundaries is a truly 'catholic' parish. An important role for the parish is to challenge and encourage every believer to greater global solidarity.”

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Called to Global Solidarity: International Challenges for U.S. Parishes*

Helpful Resources

[Pray, Learn and Fast for Those in Poverty](#)

[Take Action with Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#)



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28. We engage in charitable works that meet basic, short-term needs (food, clothing, shelter etc.) and also foster long term self-sufficiency.

Quote for Inspiration

“Catholic teaching calls us to serve those in need and to change the structures that deny people their dignity and rights as children of God. Service and action, charity and justice are complementary components of parish social ministry. Neither alone is sufficient; both are essential signs of the gospel at work.”
- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

Helpful Resources

[Two Feet of Love in Action: Which is Your Weaker Foot?](#)
[Immigration team fosters participation and respect for human dignity](#)

29. Our service programs connect volunteers with opportunities to change the conditions that create poverty and injustice.

Quote for Inspiration

“Accompanying on its own is not enough. It is not enough to offer someone a sandwich unless it is accompanied by the possibility of learning how to stand on one’s own two feet. Charity that leaves the poor person as he is, is not sufficient. True mercy, the mercy God gives to us and teaches us, demands justice.”
- Pope Francis, Address to Jesuit Refugee Service, 9/10/13

Helpful Resources

[How to Make Service Truly Transformational](#)
[Transformed by Eucharist, Sent on Mission: A Service Learning Retreat Experience](#)
[Guide for Mission Trips](#)
[Students form relationships to humanize justice issues; learn about charity and justice](#)

30. If applicable, twinning (or “sister” relationships with parishes, dioceses, or communities in other countries) is based on mutual giving and receiving by both parties.

Quote for Inspiration

“We welcome 'twinning' relationships and encourage the development of these relationships in ways that avoid dependency and paternalism. These bridges of faith offer as much to U.S. parishes as their partners. We are evangelized and changed as we help other communities of faith.”



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- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Called to Global Solidarity: International Challenges for U.S. Parishes*

Helpful Resources

[Best Practices for Twinning: Solidarity-Based Partnerships](#)
[Discovering solidarity through mutual encounter in Guatemala](#)

31. We lift up service and justice as means for strengthening family relationships, including between spouses and between parents and children.

Quote for Inspiration

"Our families are the starting point and the center of a vocation for justice. How we treat our parents, spouses and children is a reflection of our commitment to Christ's love and justice. We demonstrate our commitment to the Gospel by how we spend our time and money, and whether our family life includes an ethic of charity, service and action for justice. The lessons we teach our children through what we do as well as what we say determines whether they care for the 'least among us' and are committed to work for justice."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice*

Helpful Resources

[Practicing Solidarity as a Family](#)
[Marriage: United in Love, Strengthened for Service](#)

32. We provide concrete ideas and opportunities for our community members to live their faith in work, family, marriage or single life, and in everyday decisions and actions.

Quote for Inspiration

"Each of us has many opportunities in our everyday lives to make choices that help or harm those who are most vulnerable. In our families, we can make time to serve those in need and to become involved in efforts that promote justice. We can raise our children with an ethic of service and a passion for justice. As workers, owners, and managers, Catholics should contribute to a workplace that is safe and respectful, where workers have a voice and can earn enough to support themselves and their families. As consumers and as investors, we can support businesses that contribute to the common good, treat workers fairly, and do not exploit the poor and vulnerable. As consumers, we can also live more simply so that there might be enough at the table for all. As faithful citizens, we should take seriously our responsibilities to vote and to voice our convictions in support of public policies that defend human life and promote the human dignity of all, especially the poor and vulnerable."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *A Place at the Table: A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to Respect the Dignity of All God's Children*



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Helpful Resources

[Reflection from Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice](#)
[Practicing Solidarity as a Family](#)
[Just Purchasing Choices to Support Economic Development](#)
[Ethical Practices for Leaders and Institutions](#)

33. We help business owners, managers, workers, and consumers to live their faith in the workplace.

Quote for Inspiration

"Owners, managers, and investors face important opportunities to seek justice and pursue peace. Ethical responsibility is not just avoiding evil, but doing right, especially for the weak and vulnerable. Decisions about the use of capital have moral implications: Are they creating and preserving quality jobs at living wages? Are they building up community through the goods and services they provide? Do policies and decisions reflect respect for human life and dignity, promote peace and preserve God's creation? While economic returns are important, they should not take precedence over the rights of workers or protection of the environment. Investors should examine ownership, management, and economic decisions in the light of the Catholic call to protect life, defend those who are poor, and seek the common good. These decisions promote human dignity or undermine it."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice*

Helpful Resources

[Integrating Catholic Social Teaching in Finance, Facilities Management, and Human Resources](#)
[Vocation of the Business Leader: A Reflection](#)
[Catholic Employers and Just Wages](#)
[Catholic Framework for Economic Life](#)

34. We put Gospel values in action through our purchasing choices and encourage others to do the same.

Quote for Inspiration

"As consumers, believers can promote social justice or injustice. In an affluent culture that suggests that what we have defines who we are, we can live more simply. When we purchase goods and services, we can choose to support companies that defend human life, treat workers fairly, protect creation, and respect other basic moral values at home and abroad. We can also make conscious efforts to consume less."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice*



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Helpful Resources

[Support Fair Trade to Fight Poverty Globally](#)
[Support Economic Development in Poor Communities in the U.S.](#)

35. As a community or organization, we allocate a designated percentage of our funds to both direct service (charitable works) and long-term solutions (social justice) activities.

Quote for Inspiration

"We share what we have in Christian charity with those who face numerous obstacles to satisfy such a basic need. At the same time we promote an authentic cooperation with the poor so that through the fruits of their and our work they can live a dignified life."

- Pope Francis, Video Message for the Campaign Against Hunger, 12/9/13

Helpful Resources

[Stewardship by Faith Communities](#)
[Collection for the Church in Latin America \(4th Sunday in January\)](#)
[Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe \(Ash Wednesday\)](#)
[Catholic Relief Services Collection \(4th Sunday of Lent\)](#)
[Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development \(Sunday before Thanksgiving\)](#)
[Parishes share resources to build stronger communities](#)
[Empowering people in poverty to collaborate and advocate](#)

36. Our organizational policies (employment, compensation, due process, etc.) are implemented in a way that reflects the Church's teaching about human dignity, rights and justice.

Quote for Inspiration

"On the parish and diocesan level, through its agencies and institutions, the Church employs many people; it has investments; it has extensive properties for worship and mission. All the moral principles that govern the just operation of any economic endeavor apply to the Church and its agencies and institutions; indeed the Church should be exemplary. The Synod of Bishops in 1971 worded this challenge most aptly: "While the Church is bound to give witness to justice, she recognizes that anyone who ventures to speak to people about justice must first be just in their eyes. Hence, we must undertake an examination of the modes of acting and of the possessions and lifestyle found within the Church herself."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Economic Justice for All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy*, no. 347



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Helpful Resources

[Vocation of the Business Leader: A Reflection
Catholic Employers and Just Wages](#)

37. We communicate our values to the public arena through letter writing, calling or visiting elected officials, or other forms of advocacy.

Quote for Inspiration

"The voices and votes of lay Catholics are needed to shape a society with greater respect for human life, economic and environmental justice, cultural diversity and global solidarity. Catholic involvement in public life and legislative advocacy are important ways to exercise responsible citizenship."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice*

Helpful Resources

[Advocacy](#)

[Impassioned parishioners lead large-scale advocacy efforts](#)
[College students learn advocacy skills, meet with legislators](#)

38. We participate in national, regional and local efforts to communicate our concerns and values to public policymakers.

Quote for Inspiration

"As citizens in the world's leading democracy, Catholics in the United States have special responsibilities to protect human life and dignity and to stand with those who are poor and vulnerable. We are also called to welcome the stranger, to combat discrimination, to pursue peace, and to promote the common good. Catholic social teaching calls us to practice civic virtues and offers us principles to shape participation in public life. We cannot be indifferent to or cynical about the obligations of citizenship."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice*

Helpful Resources

[Take Action with the U.S. Catholic Bishops](#)
[Take Action with Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#)
[Take Action with your State Catholic Conference](#)
[Participate in the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering](#)
[Immigration Team Fosters Participation and Respect for Human Dignity](#)

39. We model care for God's creation by taking practical steps to be good stewards, such as conserving energy, purchasing sustainable products, reducing consumption, recycling, etc.



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Quote for Inspiration

"Grateful for the gift of creation . . . we invite Catholics and men and women of good will in every walk of life to consider with us the moral issues raised by the environmental crisis. . . . These are matters of powerful urgency and major consequence. They constitute an exceptional call to conversion. As individuals, as institutions, as a people, we need a change of heart to preserve and protect the planet for our children and for generations yet unborn."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Renewing the Earth: An Invitation to Reflection and Action on Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching*

Helpful Resources

[Catholic Climate Covenant](#)

[U.S. Catholic bishops' Environmental Justice Program](#)

[Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good](#)

[Reducing waste, caring for creation](#)

[Caring for God's creation, going solar](#)

40. Our homilies, preaching and/or teaching focus not only on disciples' individual relationship with God, but also on their call to be disciples on mission in daily life.

Quote for Inspiration

"Preaching, education, and formation in our communities of faith must reflect the Church's option for the poor and vulnerable. Through preaching, education, and religious formation, we reflect and pass on to others the beliefs we share as followers of Jesus. If they are to be true to the demands of discipleship, then homilies, faith formation programs, schools, universities, and seminaries must reflect Christ's concern for those in need. They should also affirm our Church's teaching about the obligation to serve others, to overcome structures of sin, and to work for greater justice in the world. We urge those who preach and those who teach to do more to consistently share—in our parishes, schools, universities, and seminaries—the call to serve and to promote justice for those who are poor."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *A Place at the Table: A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to Respect the Dignity of All God's Children*

Helpful Resources

[Preaching the Mystery of Faith: the Sunday Homily](#)

[Linking Liturgy and Justice](#)



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41. Homilies, preaching, and/or teaching speak to concerns facing those who are vulnerable and invite response.

Quote for Inspiration

"Preaching that reflects the social dimensions of the gospel is indispensable. Priests should not and need not impose an agenda on the liturgy to preach about justice. Rather, we urge those who preach not to ignore the regular opportunities provided by the liturgy to connect our faith and our everyday lives, to share biblical values on justice and peace. Week after week, day after day, the lectionary calls the community to reflect on the scriptural message of justice and peace. The pulpit is not a partisan rostrum and to try to make it one would be a mistake, but preaching that ignores the social dimensions of our faith does not truly reflect the gospel of Jesus Christ."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

Helpful Resources

[Preaching the Social Doctrine of the Church](#)
[Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching](#)
[Preach Solidarity: CRS Global Fellows](#)
[Homilies inspire our parish to be missionary disciples](#)

42. We work with others in our community (organizations, places of worship, etc.) to understand and respond to problems and issues.

Quote for Inspiration

"The Gospel and Catholic teaching require us to serve those in need and to work for a more just society and world. Both charity and justice are required by our faith. As citizens in the most powerful democracy on earth, we have unique opportunities to use our voices and votes to shape a more caring community, a more just nation, and a more peaceful world. We can join with others in our parishes, local community organizations, and legislative networks. We also can join with parishes and dioceses in other parts of the world and in ecumenical and other forms of action and advocacy. When people join with others to demand respect for their dignity and rights, not only do they help themselves, but they also build up the entire community and advance the common good. Our faith calls us to engagement, not retreat—to renew the earth, not flee the world."

- U.S. Catholic bishops, *A Place at the Table: A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to Respect the Dignity of All God's Children*

Helpful Resources

[Join Local Community Development Efforts >](#)
[Plan a Journey to Justice Day >](#)
[Our faith called us to address foreclosure >](#)
[Empowering people in poverty to collaborate and advocate](#)



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43. We support local efforts to address the root causes of poverty in our community, especially those efforts led by the people most impacted by the problems being addressed.

Quote for Inspiration

“The [Catholic] Campaign for Human Development has provided vital resources to many self-help organizations empowering the poor to seek greater justice. Parish support and participation in these organizations help put Catholic social teaching into action and to revitalize local communities.”
- U.S. Catholic bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*

Helpful Resources

[Join Local Community Development Efforts](#)
[Examples of Community Development](#)

44. We engage in self-evaluation of our efforts to be a community of salt and light.

Quote for Inspiration

“Listen to and follow Jesus, and . . . allow yourselves to be transformed interiorly by his words, which ‘are spirit and life’ (Jn 6:62). . . . It will help you to participate in a communal journey that is able to release the best energies in you and around you.”
- Pope Francis, Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 5/11/14

Helpful Resources

[Evaluate Your Efforts](#)
[Assessment Tool](#)

