

Working for Justice at St. Therese Parish

Steps for Action

One of the important roles of the Social Justice Commission is to help individuals and groups who want to bring new ideas or new initiatives to the parish that are related to justice. The Social Justice Commission has compiled a checklist of important questions to ask and steps to take as we walk in Christ's path.

Things to Remember:

- ✓ Anyone who wants to bring a new idea or initiative involving a justice-related topic should let someone on the Social Justice Commission know right away! Going straight to the Pastoral Council or the Pastor will only lead you back to the Social Justice Commission. You can talk with any of the Commission members! (*Joel Sisolak, Tiffany Megargee, Vicky Garner, Anne Johnston, Joe Sherman, Rob Mohn, Carmen Español, Sean Gallagher, Bertha Elfalan, Joe Hastings, Keith Abrahams and Karen Pillar*)
- ✓ You will be invited to schedule a time to present your idea at a Social Justice Commission meeting. Ideas are shared between 8:30 and 9 pm in the Parish Center living room. The dates of this year's meetings are 9/25, 10/30, 11/20, 12/18, 1/22, 2/26, 3/26, 4/23, 5/28.
- ✓ There are almost always financial implications! Please consider the long-term financial impact of any idea or initiative on the parish. (For example, donations that are needed to support the ministry, costs of sending parishioners as delegates to places where we provide ministry, paying for a speaker to come to the parish, mailing information and photocopying materials for parishioners).
- ✓ Some ideas may take a long time to develop and some may take a shorter time to develop. The length of time usually depends on the long-term impact for the parish. (For example, wanting to bring in a one-time speaker, vs. asking the parish to commit ongoing volunteers to a year-long project).
- ✓ Be open to new directions and input for your idea. As you share one idea with many people, you may create something even better!

Important Steps to Take:

- ✓ Consult with as inclusive a group of people as possible while you develop your idea. You never know where you might get some good ideas or learn of some important implications of your idea.
- ✓ Try to identify key stakeholders. Stakeholders may be people you will need to help your idea succeed, or people who will be impacted by your idea.
- ✓ Be clear about the cost of your idea and think both in the short and long term about finances.
- ✓ Make sure that you have a clearly identified group of people ready and willing to do the work you have in mind. The Social Justice Commission cannot provide all of the leg work for all projects, but may support your efforts. If you have a big project in mind, make sure you have enough people to carry it through. Be realistic about people's time and energy.

Questions to Ask:

- ✓ What need will my idea address for our parish? Our community? How was this need identified?
- ✓ What is the primary goal of my idea?
- ✓ How is this idea rooted in our Gospels and in Catholic Social Teaching?
- ✓ How will this ministry engage the St. Therese community and help us grow in our faith?
- ✓ Who is included in your group / committee / initiative? Who are the responsible people for implementing it?