

In February of 2013 Catholic Charities distributed a short survey to every parish in the Diocese with the promise that based on its findings a **Parish Social Ministry tool kit would be put together and distributed to all the parishes in the Diocese.** Well, here it is.

We hope you find this tool kit useful. There is a wealth of information in it. A number of the tools consist of information on Catholic Social Teaching tracing its beginnings with the publication of Pope Leo XIII's encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*, through to the encyclicals of his successors right up to Pope Francis' encyclical *Lumen Fidei* and his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, as well as many Episcopal letters, and introduction to the two feet of Social Justice and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Web resource information is also provided where you can learn more about Catholic Social Teaching, social action, and social justice.

In this tool kit you will also find resource information that would be of help to parishes, groups, and individuals desirous of learning about issues, advocacy and service opportunities locally, across the country and internationally.

Whether Parish Social Ministry is well established in your parish, is in the formation stage or somewhere in between, we commend to you two useful tools found in this kit, one being the flier on the **Just Faith Program** and the other providing you the link to download for free the Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) **Parish Social Ministry Tool Kit**. The former is a year-long comprehensive training program and the latter is a 55 page booklet that can guide your parish in planning, implementing and/or growing and improving your Parish Social ministry program.

There is an extensive sub-set of materials on Catholic Relief Services (CRS). CRS is the official agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops working to reduce poverty around the world. CRS works in over 100 countries conducting development work, providing emergency/disaster relief services and building peace. These materials will better inform you about Global Poverty and offer you challenging ways to work for and build global solidarity.

There is a wealth of other materials in the kit identifying human service needs and providing information on how you can become a part of the solution, helping to reduce poverty in your own backyard and local communities, elsewhere across the country, and around the world.

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