

What is Social Justice Ministry?

It is helping people in need and working for a more just society. It is being a voice for the voiceless.

How? For example, St. Williams can....

PRAY: for those in need and for an end to all need.

EDUCATE YOURSELF: about church social teaching and justice issues such as poverty, racism, & inequality

VOLUNTEER: to help directly those in need by working at a food shelf, or homeless shelter, making blankets for the homeless, tutoring disadvantaged children

DONATE: give of your material resources, -time, energy, talents, money

LIVE SIMPLY: give up some of your own material comforts in order to give more to the needy and act responsibly in the environment

JOIN: an organization advocating for the needy such as: The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, Families Moving Forward, MICAHA, Bread for the World, or The St. Williams Social Justice Committee

ATTEND: a public witness activity such as a respect life prayer rally or a march for peace.

SPEAK: to your legislators about supporting policies and funding that will help low income, disadvantaged children, families, and people

VOTE: for public office candidates who stand up for human dignity and the common good, or run for an office yourself

To Learn More About Social Justice Ministry:

You are invited to attend and join the Social Justice Ministry Group of The Church of Saint William. Monthly meetings are held during the fall to spring months and activities for the Parish are planned and executed, prayer and discussion of pertinent social issues take place.

Visit the Catholic Charities Office of social Justice website which is:
www.osjspm.org for the latest activities taking place in the archdiocese

The Church of Saint William

Social Action & Justice Ministry

By virtue of our baptism, we are all called to participate



“ . . . To be fair, and just and merciful, and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8

The Social Justice Ministry Group of St. Williams

meets monthly fall to spring. To join call

763-571-5600

“Central to our Identity as Catholics is that we are called to be leaven for transforming the world, agents of change for bringing about the kingdom of love and justice.” (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1998)

Their statement tells us that we are to live our faith through acts of charity and also by working for a more just and loving world. Those are the two basic components of social justice ministry.

CHARITY meets immediate human needs. For example: feeding the hungry, or finding shelter for a homeless person, or tutoring disadvantaged children, visiting the sick, contributing to Haitian relief, doing a mission trip.

JUSTICE helps to answer the question of WHY people are in need. What are the root causes of human suffering in society? How can I as a Catholic help to eliminate those causes and thus eliminate need?

As baptized disciples of Christ, we are called to be active participants in the ministry of social justice!

We hear our call to social justice ministry directly in biblical exhortations and church writings:

Matthew 25:34-45

“Then I the King, shall say to those at my right, ‘Come, blessed of my father, into the Kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me water; I was a stranger and you invited me into your home; naked and you clothed me; sick and in prison, and you visited me....”

Luke 16: 19-31

“...But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here bring comforted and you are in anguish. And besides, there is a great chasm separating us.....”

Papal Encyclicals, Vatican II Documents,

These documents contain several key themes or principles that run through all the writings to guide us in living the Gospel mandate to love and serve others especially those who are most vulnerable.

Catholic Social Teaching Themes

- ◆ All human life is sacred.
- ◆ The common good of all is important
- ◆ People have a right to obtaining basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education
- ◆ We must have a preferential option for the poor
- ◆ All workers have the rights to dignity, fair wages, and respect
- ◆ We are all children of God over the entire world regardless of race, creed, color, sexual preference, and gender
- ◆ We must care for all of God’s creation—human and environmental

If you are interested in becoming involved in The **Church of St. William’s Social Action and Justice Ministry**, call the church office at 763-571-5600, or email the chair of the committee.