

Our Mission

Parish Social Ministry is a resource specialist in the development and delivery of services that strengthen the capacity of parish communities to serve vulnerable people of all faiths.

We provide leadership, guidance and training for parishes in their social ministries.

We minister to people directly. We do this with mutual respect, Christ-centered compassion, insight and adaptability to meet the varied needs of those we serve.

Parish Social Ministry

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Children's Offerings to Live out Catholic Social Teaching



We recognize our youngest parishioners are the future of our Church and we must foster their natural curiosity, open hearts and faithful spirits! Parish Social Ministry is happy to be a resource to your parish in creatively engaging children and families in learning what Catholicism teaches on serving our most vulnerable populations.

Outlined below is an overview of some of the more popular children's offerings. The programs come from a variety of different sources, are customizable and can be implemented with the help of PSM staff.

We welcome you to contact us for more information about helping the children in your parish or school grow in their social justice spirit, psm@ccmaine.org or by calling 781-8550.

Mustard Seed Projects

Mustard Seed is a program to engage and educate children in serving the most vulnerable populations of Maine. Parish Social Ministry staff come to the school or parish and educate the children on a specific Catholic Charities program and the children do an activity or a collection to connect them to the program. A few examples of collection items:

- Socks for people served by the PATH's, a program in Lewiston that serves the homeless.
- Food for our Food Bank or area food pantries.
- Items for new refugees in CC Refugee program: blankets, cleaning supplies, personal care items.
- Books for our Child Development Centers (appropriate for children ages six weeks to seven years).

Care for Creation Art Project

This art project is to encourage both creative and critical thinking on our shared responsibility to be good stewards of the environment. The activity consists of a video, a discussion, and creation of an art piece, with a timing connected to Earth Day.

TIME: CAN VARY | RECOMMENDED AGES: K+

Superhero of Justice Activity

This creative activity helps youth of elementary school age envision Catholic social teaching from the perspective of a superhero.

TIME: 1 HR | RECOMMENDED AGES: K TO 3RD GRADE

Storybooks on Faith in Action

Two story books that help children understand important lessons of how to work for justice and peace and to help those in need: *Green Street Park* and *Drop by Drop*. Both are available through Loyola Press.

TIME: 30 MINUTES +

RECOMMENDED AGES: K TO 5TH GRADE

Hands of Mercy

Hands of Mercy is an engaging way to teach about the acts of mercy! In a large group, children (and their parents) learn in a special way about the Corporal Acts of mercy. Four activity stations are set up where they become creatively involved in "Feeding the Hungry," "Sheltering the Homeless," "Clothing Those in Need," and "Comforting the Afflicted." *Hands of Mercy* is easy to prepare and do at your church.

TIME: 90 MINUTES

RECOMMENDED AGES: 1ST GRADE +

If I Were King or Queen for a Day

If I Were King or Queen for a Day is a program that is an introduction to Catholic social teaching. The participants learn Catholic social teaching by acting like the ruler of the Kingdom and thinking about what they would do if they wanted the best for the people in their care. Children and parents can participate in the program – it would be great for a Family Faith Formation gathering.

TIME: 75 MINUTES

RECOMMENDED AGES: 3RD GRADE +

In Their Shoes

An engaging, highly-interactive workshop designed to help participants understand the path of a refugee and invites them to walk a moment "in their shoes." Participants learn how to be welcoming to refugees in our Maine communities.

TIME: 90 MINUTES

RECOMMENDED AGES: 5TH GRADE +

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

— Matthew 19:14

