

Mission & Core Values



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Our Mission & Values

Inspired by scripture and the Church's social teaching, Catholic Charities empowers and strengthens individuals and families of all faiths by providing innovative community-based social services throughout Maine.

Our **Core Values** translate how the Mission of Catholic Charities Maine unfolds daily. At the heart of our organization are these Core Values:

Respect: Treating others, as we want to be treated. Accepting all persons for their unique gifts, circumstances, and needs. Believing in the inherent worth and sacredness of each person.

INTEGRITY: Seeking to effect wholeness in all our relationships - individually and organizationally. Keeping our word, and being faithful to who we say we are.

COMPASSION: Caring and comforting in a personalized manner through our diverse presence as social service providers.

HOSPITALITY: Welcoming all, especially those most vulnerable and in need, to an environment of dignity, safety, warmth and a sense of being "at home."

EXCELLENCE: Consistently aiming to achieve highest quality outcomes while striving for innovation, collaboration and continuous quality improvement.

STEWARDSHIP: Making use of all our human, material, environmental, and financial resources in a responsible and accountable manner.

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
(Luke 12:34)

The true **RICHERS** of Catholic Charities Maine are grounded in the social teachings of Jesus Christ as they unfold in the lives of our committed staff and our clients who bestow on us the gift of their presence. It is here that our treasure lies, empowering our mission and values to guide us in all we do.

The Basis for our Mission

The work we do is driven by Catholic social teaching. We can summarize the values and principles of Catholic social teaching as follows:

The dignity of each and every human person is of central importance in Catholic social teaching. From this inborn dignity flows a wide range of rights and responsibilities. Human beings are not merely isolated individuals but are part of communities, starting with the family, in which we are called to participate in unity with one another. Those who are poor and vulnerable deserve special attention.

This is the core of Catholic social teaching which forms the basis for the work of our Agency. We accept this obligation, not as a burden, but as a gift.



A Brief Overview of Catholic Social Teaching

Based upon Scripture and Catholic Tradition

The Church's social ministry is founded on the life and words of Jesus Christ, inspired by the passion for justice of the Hebrew prophets, and is shaped by the social teaching of the Catholic Church.

Human Dignity, Rights, and Responsibilities

- We consider that flowing from our God-given dignity, each person has basic rights and responsibilities: the right of freedom of conscience and religious liberty, to raise a family, to immigrate, to live free from discrimination, to share sufficiently in earthly goods for both oneself and one's family, to food, clothing, housing, health care, education, security, necessary social services, and employment. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities — to one another, to our families and the larger society, to work for the common good, and to respect the rights of others.
- We consider that in a linked and limited world, our responsibilities to one another cross national and other boundaries — that violent conflict and the denial of dignity and rights to people anywhere on the globe diminish each of us.
- We consider that people have the right to befitting and productive work, to decent and fair wages, to private property and economic initiative.
- We consider that people are more important than things.
- We are called to bring our values into the marketplace and the political arena, into community and family life, using our everyday opportunities and responsibilities, our voices and votes to defend human life, human dignity and human rights.

Participation

- People have a right to participate in the decisions that affect their lives. We consider how people are able to participate in political, legal, and economic institutions a central test of the fairness of these institutions. Therefore, we are concerned with what institutions do to people, what they do for people, and how people participate in them.

Solidarity

- We consider we are one human family, whatever our national, racial, religious, ethnic, economic and ideological differences.
- We consider we are "our brother's keeper," and our sister's too.
- We believe we are called to transform both our hearts and our social structures to renew the face of the earth.

Option for the Poor

- We consider a basic moral test of a society is how its most vulnerable members are faring, with the greatest needs requiring the greatest response.
- We believe this fundamental value puts to the test every system, every nation, and every community by placing the needs of the poor first.

Stewardship

- We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

These inherent values in our mission emphasize morality over technology, asking not simply what can we do, but what should we do. They call us to measure our lives not by what we have, but by who we are, how we care for one another, and how we contribute to the common good, to justice in our community and to peace in our world.

The Mission & Core Values of Catholic Charities Maine guide us in all we do.

