



This is Parish Social Ministry

Empowering parishes and communities through participation, leadership, guidance, and training.

Catholic Charities Maine's Parish Social Ministry (PSM) program works to strengthen parish communities and bring the love of God to serve vulnerable neighbors of all faiths. We recognize that parishes know their own communities best, and we collaborate in developing and delivering specific and tailored resources to meet identified needs:

- We work together to fulfill our Gospel call to serve our neighbors in need.
- We apply the wisdom of Catholic Social Teaching to analyze ministries and advocate for social justice.
- We are devoted to serving those in need together, so that we can all be signs of Christ at work in our parishes.

Parish Social Ministry (PSM) strengthens parish communities by providing social ministry program trainings and resources based on the individual needs of a parish.

PSM offers:

- Experience, advice, and support
- Resources, connections, and best practices for social ministry
- Catholic social teaching formation
- Parish grants
- *Relief & Hope*: Emergency Services effort offering compassionate help for urgent needs

Learn more at www.ccmaine.org/PSM

Parish Social Ministry

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Parish Social Ministry



"As often as you did it for the least of my brothers or sisters, you did it for me."

— Matthew 25:40



The needs of people in our state are greater than a single entity alone can meet. Catholic Charities and its Parish Social Ministry program have a long tradition of providing caring, professional services to community members in need. In this process, we can deepen faith and strengthen church communities.

“We seek to build evangelizing communities of faith, justice, and solidarity, where all believers are challenged to bring God’s love, justice, and peace to a world in desperate need of the seasoning of the gospel and the light of Catholic teaching.”

— Introduction to USCCB Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish



Our Services

Recognizing that no two parishes are alike, we offer a “menu” of services, and we work with you to help develop and support your success with parish outreach efforts.

How we can help:

Foster Social Ministries

- Share expertise, experience, and resources to advance new or existing ministries

Obtain a Parish Grant

- Identify and apply for Matthew 25, CCHD, and other funding opportunities

Connect Faith and Discipleship

- Craft or co-facilitate a Catholic Social Teaching program for children, youth, or adults

Collaborate on Retreat Planning

- Nourish and inspire parishioners to serve in their community

Develop Engaged Volunteers & Effective Leaders

- Train parish leaders in volunteer management

Train Staff and Volunteers for Pastoral Ministries

- Instruct and guide on issues of confidentiality, healthy boundaries, and challenges

Assist the Sick & Infirm

- Identify compassionate, reliable, part-time caregivers for the homebound

Welcome All God’s Children

- Increase awareness of pregnancy resources and welcome immigrants

Assess Community Needs and Parish Response

- Discern the cry of the poor and marginalized

Create or Re-organize a Social Justice or Outreach Commission

- Provide structure recommendations, facilitate formation, and transformation

Foster Care for Creation

- Develop an “ecoJoy” project for the parish, school, youth ministry, or children’s faith formation

Plant a Mustard Seed of Love for Neighbor

- Plan a collection or activity to spark interest in a need or issue

