



## Parish Christian Service Commission

Dear Family of St. Joseph the Worker:

As many of you know, we are seeking members for our Parish Christian Service Commission. The Christian Service Commission helps the pastor in fulfilling the mission of Jesus and the Church by developing Catholic identity, promoting evangelization, and fostering stewardship. At this time, we are looking for 8-12 members. In the next couple of weeks we ask you to **prayerfully consider yourself or someone else** whom you think has good leadership qualities. Call the parish office for further inquiry.

Our parish needs good parishioners in leadership to help make decisions about the spiritual life and worship life of our faith community; Christian formation for parishioners of all ages; human concerns and works of justice; administrative services and stewardship; collaboration, and community building activities.

These leaders should have the following characteristics: **1)** A faith that is alive and gospel oriented; **2)** A sense of the mission of the Church (universal and diocesan) and our parish; **3)** Creativity and energy; **4)** A willingness to make a commitment of time and talent; **5)** A willingness to be open and to listen to other peoples' viewpoint; **6)** The ability to relate to others and work as a team member.

Commission members must meet the following requirements: a) be a registered member of the parish; b) be a baptized, practicing Catholic; c) be a participant in the parish worship life (e.g. Mass and the sacraments); and d) be at least eighteen (18) years old.

Please pray for the selection of good parish Christian service commission leadership in our parish, and prayerfully consider yourself or other parishioners you would recommend for these important roles in the life of Saint Joseph the Worker parish.

As parochial administrator, I am very grateful to the many parishioners who give so freely of themselves for the benefit of the whole parish community. In this autumn season, may God bless each of you with a full measure of the Light of Christ. Thank you and ***we need your leadership!***

-Fr. Ricky

**I elect myself or suggest that the following individual(s) be invited to consider a ministry through service on our parish Christian service commission.** [Print Names]

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

# Stewards of St. Joseph the Worker



## Who We Are and What We Do

Saint Joseph the Worker Parish **Christian Service Commission** under the general direction of the pastor and parish pastoral council is composed of members who serve to empower the parish community to fulfill the gospel mandate of service and justice. Christian service reflects our belief in the dignity of each

person from conception to natural death. As we serve others, we are enriched in Faith as members of the One Body of Christ.

Every baptized Christian is called to fulfill the gospel mandate. It is imperative that the members of the commission know that they are not responsible to *do* the entire social ministry themselves, but, as Disciples of Christ, to *lead, empower, and involve others* in actively accepting the responsibility of baptism.

### **The Scope of the Commission's work:**

- Supporting people in their family life and work life
- Serving the "least of these" through outreach
- Advocating for justice through legislative action
- Creating community
- Building Solidarity

**General Responsibilities** of the Christian Service Commission include:

**Leadership:** Offering guidance and vision for the parish's Christian Service ministry in light of the overall vision of evangelization.

**Assessment:** Developing familiarity with the assets and needs of the parish, the community, and the region; evaluating the spiritual effect of Christian Service on persons.

**Planning:** Generating reasonable and achievable goals and time lines.

**Coordination:** Facilitating direction and organization for projects.

**Education:** Providing opportunities for the parish to become familiar with and respond to the teachings of the Church and the needs of the community.



Collaboration: Working with other parish commissions and groups to integrate ministry, such as: Stewardship, Liturgy and Religious Education Programs.

### Structure and Membership

How a commission is structured will be determined by the size and needs of the individual parish. In general, the Christian Service Commission provides direction

and coordination for the social ministry efforts of the parish. Some of the groups and services that are typically organized under the umbrella of social ministry may include:

- ❖ Outreach to the poor: food pantries, soup kitchens, giving tree, Thanksgiving baskets, clothing drives, etc.
- ❖ Homeless Shelter
- ❖ Emergency Referrals: rent, utilities, prescriptions, etc.
- ❖ Respect Life activities
- ❖ BeFriender Ministry
- ❖ Parish Nurse
- ❖ Jail Ministry
- ❖ Visiting the sick/Homebound
- ❖ Funeral luncheons
- ❖ Cards/letters to shut-ins
- ❖ Legislative Advocacy
- ❖ Disaster Relief



- Membership is made up of persons interested in the social mission (service and justice) of the Church and a representative from committees doing the work of service and justice (see above list).
- The structure includes a chairperson. The chair is responsible for communicating with the Pastor/Pastoral Administrator or assigned pastoral support staff.
- The commission relates to the Parish Pastoral Council through a Commission liaison that submits a monthly report.

- The commission collaborates with representatives from the school, religious education programs, and other commissions (i.e., Worship, Faith Formation, etc.)
- The principal requirements for candidates are a heart for service and a willingness to give of one's time. Any Roman Catholic who is leading a life in harmony with the church, is at least eighteen (18) years of age, a member of Saint Joseph the Worker Parish and has received the Sacrament of Confirmation is eligible for election to the commission.

### Christian Service Commission Meetings and Minutes

Meetings generally take place in Church basement conference area and begin at 6:00pm on the last Tuesday of each month, with the exception of July, August, and December, when there will be no meeting. August is a social gathering of all councils and commissions. Items to be considered for the agenda must be submitted to the Christian Service Commission Chairperson one week prior to the scheduled meeting for their discussion and review. The Christian Service Commission minutes are available for review on the parish website or upon request at the parish office. Minutes are formally approved at the next commission meeting.

**LEADERSHIP**  
BY *example*

*Our parish communities are measured by how they serve 'the least of these' in our parish and beyond its boundaries - the hungry, the homeless, the sick, those in prison, the stranger (cf. Matthew 25:31). Our local families of faith are called to 'hunger and thirst for justice' and to be peacemakers in our own communities (cf. Matthew 5:6, 9).*

**Communities of Salt and Light**  
**-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**