

“Go You are Sent Forth”
*A Reflection from the
Christian Life Commission on the
OMOS Pastoral Plan*

CLC CORE COMMITTEE

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Ite missa est

“Go, you are sent forth”



“For the faithful who have understood the meaning of what they have done, the Eucharistic celebration does not stop at the church door.

...once the assembly disperses,
[the people]
return to their everyday surroundings
with the commitment to make
their whole life a gift . . .
pleasing to God.”

Dies Domini

*(from “Sending Us Forth - Eucharist, mission and the closing rites”
by Michael Driscoll, America, 3 Oct 2005)*

The Eucharist prepares the church for mission . . .
It is the **authentic source of mission** and its **only end**, the “source and summit” of the Christian life

as it is expressed in the daily lives
of those who break bread together
as Jesus commanded.

**Eucharist prepares the church
for its SOCIAL MISSION,**
its “Sending Forth” . . .

... this “Sending Forth” into our everyday lives is what the Christian Life Commission is all about:

VISION STATEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION

Parishes are called to help people live their faith in the world;

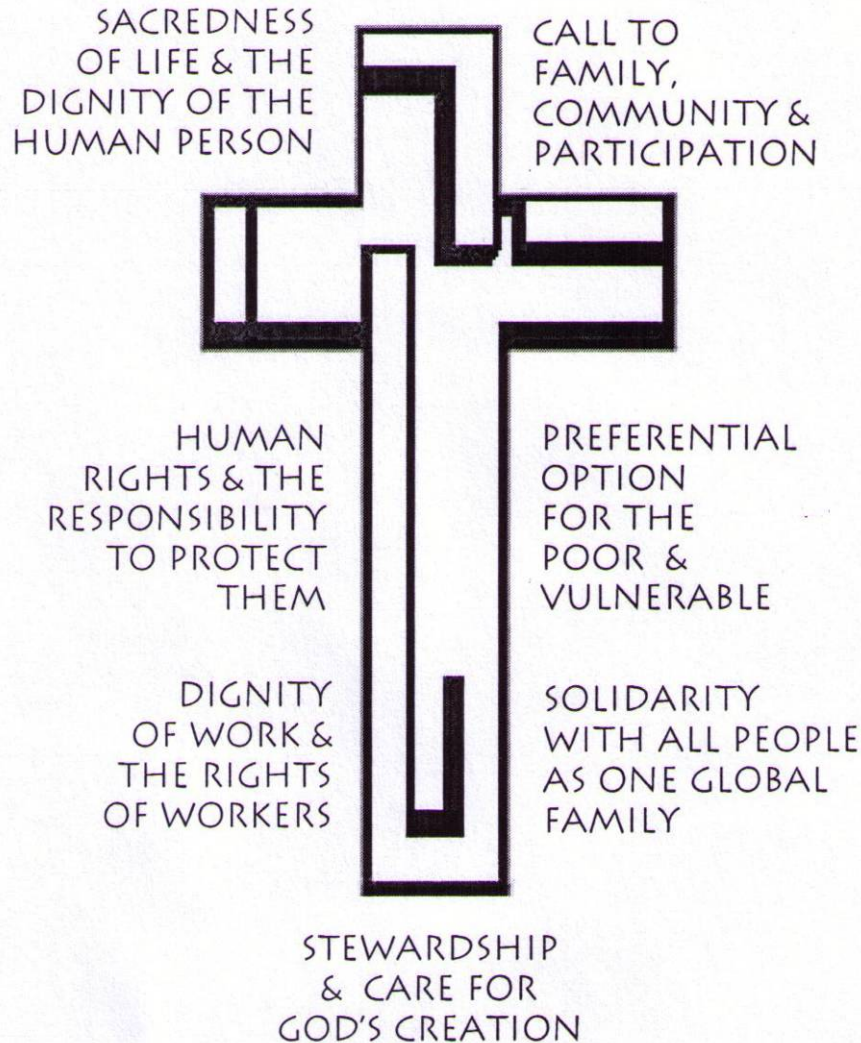
to help them understand and act on the social dimension of the gospel in their everyday lives as they live their roles as:

parents, friends, workers, students,
owners, investors, citizens, caregivers,
advocates, policy makers, and members of
both local and global communities

The Christian Life Commission hopes . . .

To bring the message
of social justice and peace
to the entire OMOS community and
weave the Catholic social mission
into every aspect
of parish life and worship
through integration and
collaboration among ministries
so that the social mission
is not isolated or neglected.

SEVEN KEY THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING



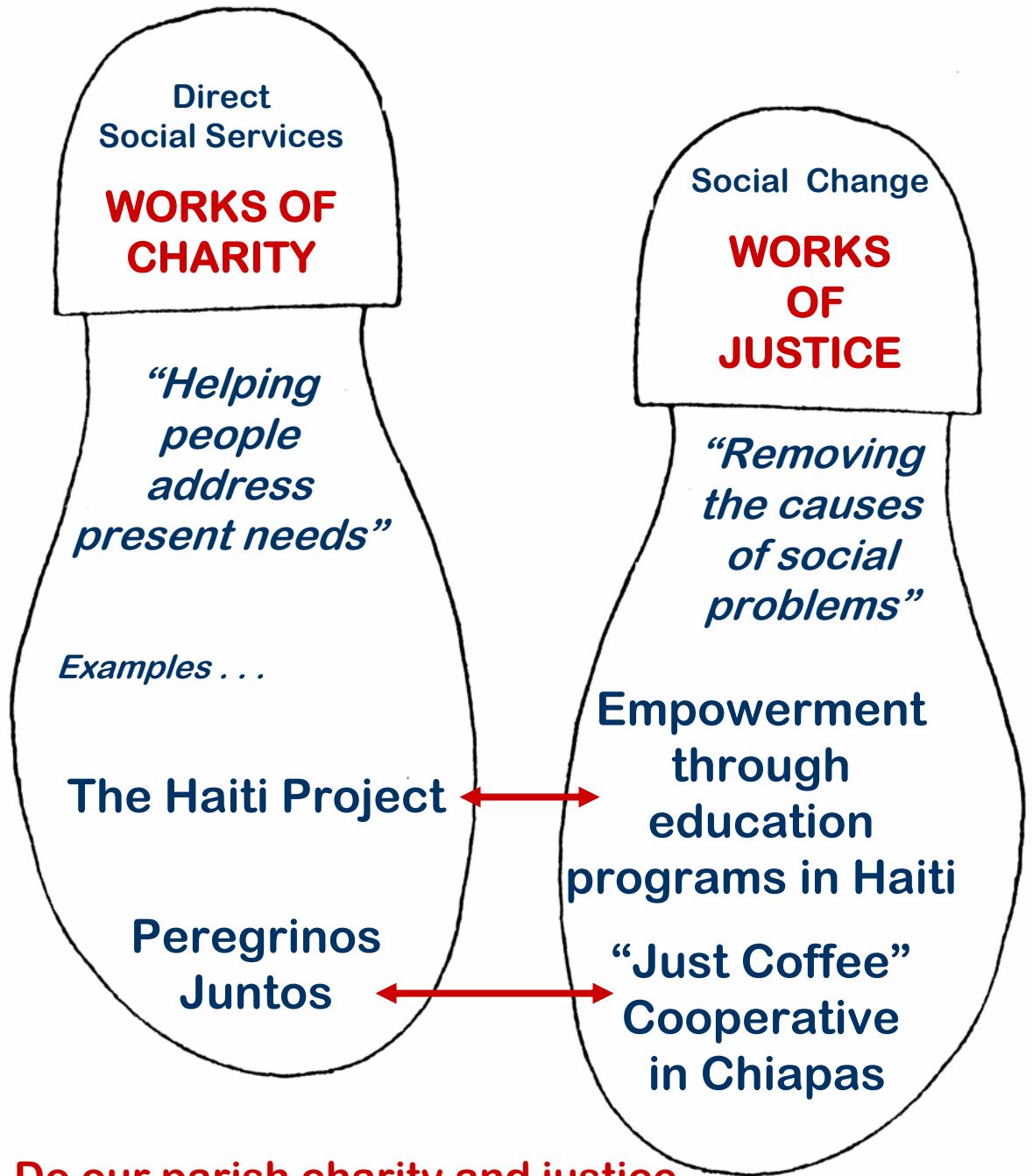
To guide us in this goal, we embrace the Seven Key Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

- transcend standard political ideologies
- may call us beyond our “comfort zone”
- may both challenge and affirm deeply held values and ignite an active response

The image of

“THE TWO FEET OF SOCIAL ACTION”

... is one way to evaluate our OMOS ministries in light of The Seven Key Themes ...



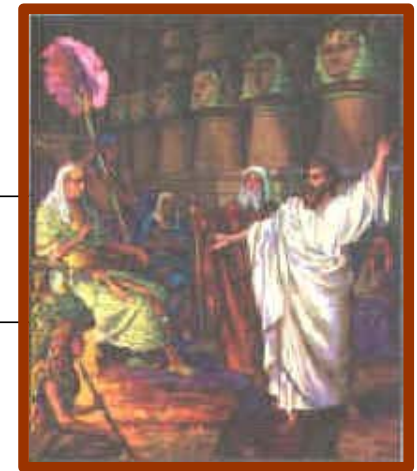
Do our parish charity and justice efforts allow us to stand balanced on TWO FEET?

Another way to understand the call to be active in both CHARITY & JUSTICE



*“Kindness and truth shall meet,
justice and peace shall kiss.”*

Psalm 85:11



Works of Charity
Social Service

Works of Justice
Social Change

Scriptural Reference:

Scriptural Reference:

Good Samaritan Story

The Gospel story does not attempt to survey the causes of highway banditry. The Samaritan provides temporary and immediate relief.

Exodus Story

Moses does not ask for food and medicine for the Jewish slave-labor force. He challenges the institutional system.
"Let My People Go."

Private, individual acts

Public, collective actions

Responds to immediate need

Responds to long-term need

Provides direct service:
food, clothing, shelter

Promotes social change in institutions

Requires repeated actions

Resolves structural injustice

Directed at the effects of injustice:
symptoms

Directed at the root causes of social injustice

Examples:

*Homeless shelters, food shelves, clothing drives,
emergency services*

*Legislative advocacy, changing corporate policies or
practices, congregation-based community organizing.*

Individual ministry groups in the CLC are asked to reflect on the Seven Key Themes and link them directly to their ministry activities

Example: THE 7 KEY THEMES & THE HAITI PROJECT

1. LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON: We believe in the preciousness of the people of Haiti and believe that we can learn to appreciate our own lives more deeply and grow in faith by learning from the Haitian people.

2. CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION: We desire to participate together as individuals, families, parish and school communities, in seeking the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable of Haiti.

3. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: We accept our responsibility to protect the human dignity of all by participating in outreach efforts locally and globally.

4. OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE: We seek to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first by joining our lives and prayers with those in the poorest nation of the Western Hemisphere.

5. THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS: We believe all workers -- in Haiti have a basic right to fair wages and we seek to aid in the protection of this right through our "Teacher-to-Teacher" program.

6. SOLIDARITY: We view our neighbors in Haiti as part of one human family and stand with them in solidarity.

7. CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION: We seek to find ways to join a need for stewardship of the Haitian environment with solutions to improve the well-being of the people through God's natural gifts.



HAITI PROJECT

Faith Works

Our Mother Of Sorrows Catholic Church
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June-August 2006

Volume 1, Issue 2

The quarterly : “**FAITH WORKS**” Newsletter is produced by the OMOS **Just Faith Ministry Group** to share the 7 themes of Catholic Social Teaching and call us forth to act upon them . . .

Seven Key Themes Of Catholic Social Teaching

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person: We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.
2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation: We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.
3. Rights and Responsibilities: Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency.
4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: Mt 25:31-46 instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers: If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected.
6. Solidarity: We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live.
7. Care for God's Creation: We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.

Welcome

to the newsletter of our JustFaith group at OMOS. We have changed the name of this newsletter from *Living Our Faith to Faith Works*. James 2:14-26 reminds us to put our faith into action by helping others, “through our works.” The following are guest writers for this issue:

- *Sr. Jose Hobday* is a popular international speaker on prayer and spirituality. She is a great friend of OMOS and has dedicated her life to living and working with the poor.
- *Barbara Padilla* works with the farmers in Chiapas to help them sell Just Coffee at OMOS. She is also a member of the newly formed Just Trade, helping to develop more co-ops in Mexico.
- *Jose Hanchi* is a member of the JustFaith group and a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He is a wonderful advocate for social justice.

We have kept as guidelines on this page of the *Seven Key Themes of Catholic Social Teaching* and the *Consistent Ethic of Life* as they are the backbone of the topics covered.

Consistent Ethic Of Life

“Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation; it is an indivisible good.” (The Gospel of Life, no. 37 by John Paul II)

Simply put, the teaching of our Catholic faith tells us that all life is sacred and must be protected, from the womb to the tomb. All people have a right to life. Violence against a human life for any reason is not a solution for any of the problems faced by our society.

Cardinal Bernardin stated that capital punishment, for example is not the same as abortion, but the issues are linked by the value and defense of life that is placed on both. “When human life is considered ‘cheap’ or easily expendable in one area, eventually nothing is held as sacred and all lives are in jeopardy.”

. . . . By these means,
the Christian Life Commission seeks
to build Our Mother of Sorrows Parish
into a community of faith
where all believers
are challenged **to bring**
God's charity, justice, and peace
to a world in desperate need
of the salt of the gospel and
the light of Catholic teaching.