



**Social Justice Toolkit
Toolkit for Parish Engagement**

**Archdiocesan Pastoral Council
Social Justice Committee
April 2018**

October 2017

Dear Fellow APC Members,

In his homily for the October 2014 Social Justice Convocation, Cardinal Sean quoted Pope Francis and challenged us as Catholics to say “no to the globalization of indifference” around social injustice. We believe that, three years later, conditions require us not simply to say no, but to become actively involved in social justice issues present in our own neighborhoods, parishes, cities, states, and in our nation.

The members of the APC Social Justice Committee invite you to consider using the enclosed tools and following talking points to assist you in engaging your parishes in a stronger commitment to social justice ministry.

****When you visit each of your parishes, ask about the presence and status of social justice committees; ask if there is a member/liaison with whom you might communicate about upcoming events or connecting with further resources. Ask in what ways might the APC convey their concerns to Cardinal Sean? What types of resources could support their ministry?***

****If there is no current committee, ask the pastor and the members of PPC if they are interested in the formation of social justice committee and connect them with a member of the APC Social Justice Committee for further support. Suggest the possibility of linking social justice activities to already established groups such as stewardship, religious education, and evangelization.***

****Ask what are the 1-3 most pressing social justice issues confronting the parish; if possible, provide resources, or contacts who might help in the specific areas. For example, some parishes may be successfully addressing their concerns and might be happy to share learnings.***

By helping each parish to recognize the importance of establishing a working social justice committee, you are fighting against the “globalization of indifference” and helping individual Catholics to respond as Isaiah did when challenged by the Lord: “Here am I. Send me!” We invite/urge/beg you to add this to your parish outreach efforts!

With gratitude,
Members of the APC Social Justice Committee

BOSTON GLOBE OPINION SUBMISSION

By Maura Healey and Seán P. O'Malley SEPTEMBER 01, 2017

Scripture teaches us that we should welcome the stranger, for we were once strangers ourselves. That simple lesson offers special meaning for us in America. We remain the immigrant nation, a country founded and sustained by those who came here in search of a better life.

We urge President Trump to take this legacy to heart as his administration considers ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA. We ask that he reconsider throwing into chaos the future of 800,000 young people in the United States, and nearly 19,000 in Massachusetts alone.

These young people, often referred to as Dreamers, attend our schools. They play sports with our children and live in our neighborhoods. They worship and work and volunteer alongside us. Many serve in our armed forces. They are not citizens. But they are Americans.

Those enrolled in DACA were brought to this country as children. In many cases, America is the only home they have ever known. Some don't even realize they are undocumented until they apply to college or for a job.

That's why, five years ago, the federal government created the DACA program. Instead of waiting for overdue national immigration reform, this program offered young people a path out of the shadows. They had to come forward to register, submit to criminal background checks, and begin the journey toward legitimate citizenship. In return, they received temporary protection from deportation, and the ability to work and attend college.

Here in Massachusetts, DACA is working.

Studies show that these young people are getting higher education degrees and finding better paying jobs. That grows our workforce and contributes millions to our economy.

Those of us in law enforcement have seen the clear guidelines of the DACA program open up new avenues of trust and cooperation in our communities. We rely on members of the community to come forward to enlist our help. Without DACA, many will not feel comfortable doing so, for fear of deportation. Serious crimes will go unreported, and criminals will go free.

Those of us in religious communities have been able to minister to people who do not have to live in constant fear of deportation raids. Our region has always been blessed with a diversity of cultures and backgrounds. We see that heritage within our places of worship as well and are proud to have pastors and members of our parishes who hail from as far away as Ghana and Brazil, El Salvador and China. DACA has helped strengthen our communities by ensuring everyone feels welcome to join us in prayer.

This program was a promise from our government to these children that playing by the rules would pay off. Now Trump is considering ending DACA, breaking that promise and putting families at risk.

Already, inflammatory rhetoric about immigrants has created a culture of fear that harms public safety and undermines our communities. We have heard from parents who pulled their children out of school and cancelled doctor's appointments. Ending this program would further encourage this dangerous retreat into the shadows.

But the DACA program is not just about public policy – it is also about public morality. We believe that every person is worthy of dignity and that we are strongest when every member of our community has a chance to succeed. From the streets surrounding Boston Common to the areas of Houston and the Gulf Coast devastated by flooding, the last few weeks have shown us what is possible when our communities come together on behalf of those shared values.

Trump recently said that he wanted to invite immigrants to the United States who could hold a job, contribute to our society, obey our laws and serve our country. This is precisely what DACA young adults and children are doing; they are serving in the military and pursuing their education. They want to be productive citizens. The young people registered in the DACA program are exemplary. They have followed the rules. All they ask in return is a path to citizenship in the only country they've ever known.

We hope Trump will answer their prayers.

Maura Healey is attorney general of Massachusetts. Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, OFM Cap, is Archbishop of Boston.

Cardinal Seán's Blog

I want to begin this week expressing my concern, shared by my brother bishops, over the potential elimination of the program Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, commonly known as DACA.

Under this program, which was instituted more than five years ago, young people who were brought to this country by their parents as undocumented immigrants were invited to come forward to apply for permission to remain in this country to study and work.

It has been widely reported that the Administration is considering reversing this policy, and that that decision could come as early as this weekend. I want to add my voice to those urging that this just and humane program remain in place.

While there is a great divergence of opinion on which direction U.S. immigration policy should ultimately take, all sides certainly agree on one point: that the current system is broken and needs to be fixed. DACA, though not the solution to this problem, was an important step in helping create stability for these young people and children who did not enter this country of their own volition, and many of whom have known no other home.

Having ministered to immigrant communities throughout my life as a priest and a bishop, I know these young people are the very type of immigrant that the President recently said he wants to invite to this country – those who can hold a job, contribute to our society, obey our laws, and serve our country. The young men, young women and children currently protected by DACA are doing just that, striving to be productive members of our society, they only want the opportunity to continue to do so.

For this reason, I want to join the U.S. Bishops in urging President Trump to keep this important policy in place. We are indeed a great nation and I know the contributions made by these young people protected by DACA will help keep it so in the future, so long as they are given the chance.

SEVEN THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. The value of human life is being threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. 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.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. 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.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice.¹ The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

Care for God's Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. 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.

This summary should only be a starting point for those interested in Catholic social teaching. A full understanding can only be achieved by reading the papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents that make up this rich tradition. For a copy of the complete text of *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions* (No. 5-281) and other social teaching documents, call 800-235-8722

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Publication No. 5-315

USCCB Communications

Washington, D.C.

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¹ Paul VI, *For the Celebration of the Day Of Peace*. . . (Rome: January 1, 1972).

Text is drawn from *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 1998) and *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility* (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2003).

Also, CRS and the USCCB produced a great series of short videos (3 to 5 minutes) explaining and illustrating the themes of on Catholic Social Teaching:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/index.cfm>

or youtube: CST 101 [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)

Here's the intro to the series: "The Church's Social Teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. The video series is designed to be an introduction to this body of thought with notable Catholics describing how each of the teachings prescribe a framework for our moral conscience. 'We hope this video series will bring the themes and principals of Catholic Social Teaching to life for the many people who may not be familiar with this doctrine,' said Joan Rosenhauer, executive vice president of CRS. 'Each of the pieces is engaging and accessible for all audiences. It will be a fantastic asset for religious educators and lay ministers at all levels.' "

And here is the introduction to the Two Feet of Love in Action brochure:

"Two Feet of Love in Action

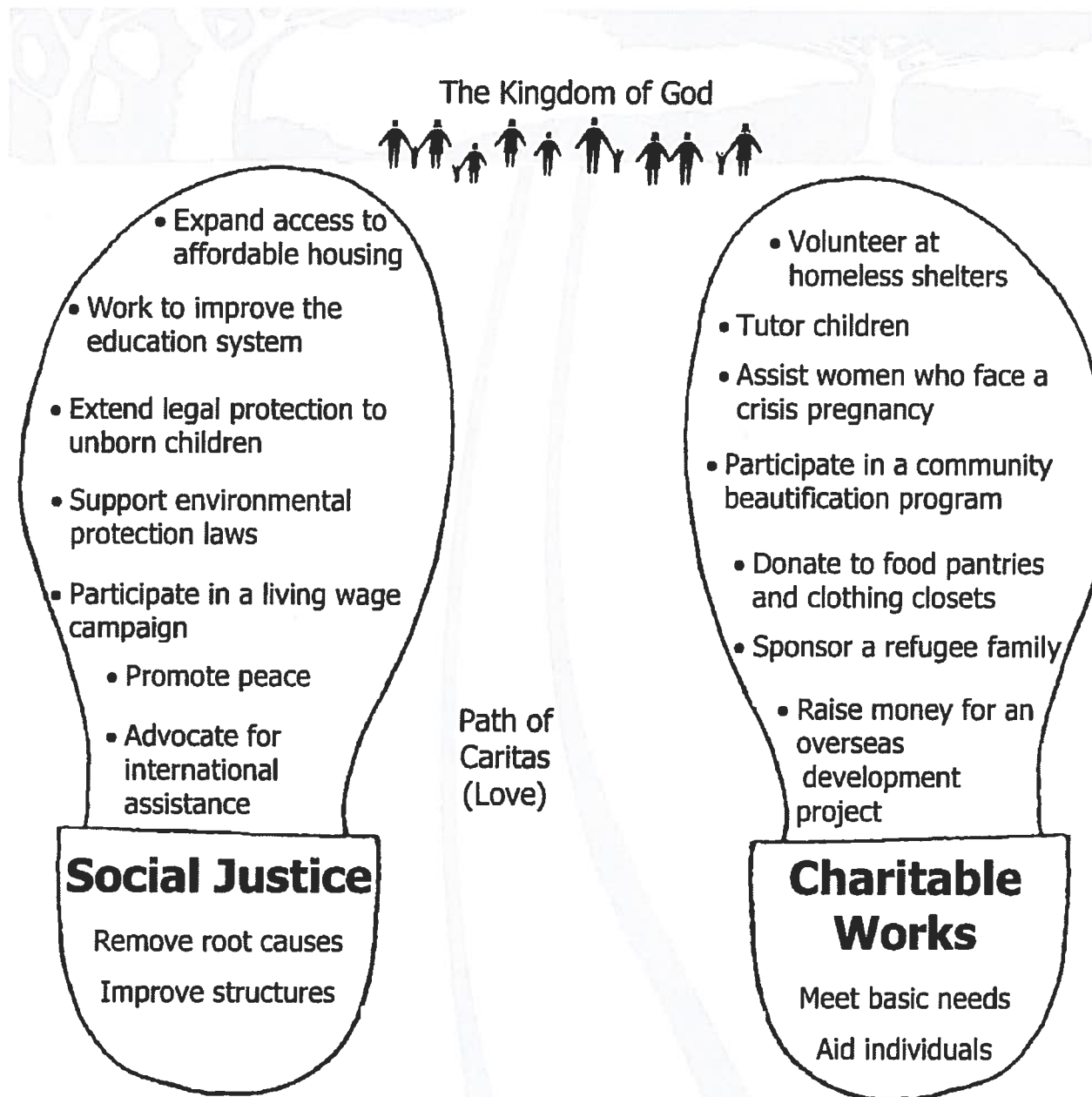
Catholic disciples on mission are called to put Two Feet of Love in Action! This foundational tool describes two distinct, but complementary, ways we can put the Gospel in action in response to God's love: *social justice* (addressing systemic, root causes of problems that affect many people) and *charitable works* (short-term, emergency assistance for individuals).

Social Justice "concerns the social, political, and economic aspects and, above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions" (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 201). We step with this foot when we work to address the *root causes* of problems facing our communities by advocating for just public policies and helping to change the social structures that contribute to suffering and injustice at home and around the world.

Charitable Works are our "response to immediate needs and specific situations: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for and healing the sick, visiting those in prison, etc." (*Deus Caritas Est*, no. 31). We step with the Charitable Works foot when we work to aid or assist others both locally and globally to meet their immediate, short-term needs. Examples include engaging in direct service or providing food, clothing, shelter, or monetary assistance to help those in need."



The Two Feet of Love *in Action*



"The conscience is called by this social teaching to recognize and fulfill the obligations of **justice and charity** in society." (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 83)

"**Social justice**. . . concerns the social, political and economic aspects and, above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions." (*Compendium*, no. 201)

"The Church cannot neglect the service of **charity** any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word. . . . Those who are able make offerings in accordance with their means . . . to support orphans, widows, the sick and those who for other reasons find themselves in need, such as prisoners and foreigners." (Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, no. 22)



The Two Feet of Love *in Action*

Love cultivates compassion in our hearts and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need, and moves us to respond in an ongoing and continuous manner. The “Two Feet of Love in Action” describe how love is concretely expressed in action. In the table below, first reflect on how the Social Justice and Charitable Works responses are different. Why are both types of responses necessary? Second, in the last row, choose an issue you are interested in and then write down some possible ways to respond. In the first column, focus on Social Justice actions that can help address root causes. In the second column, identify Charitable Works that can aid individuals.

	Social Justice	Charitable Works
General Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focuses on the rights and duties of individuals, families and all creation - Analyzes social situations and structures - Works for long-term social change. - Addresses the underlying social causes of individual problems - Seeks just laws, fair social structures, and peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focuses on the basic needs of individuals, families and all creation - Looks at individual situations of need - Meets an immediate need - Addresses painful personal symptoms of social problems - Relies on the generosity of donors
Example: Responses to Abortion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extend legal protection to unborn children - Adopt pro-family public policies that help families with children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide prenatal care and medical services for poor women - Offer crisis pregnancy services, e.g., counseling and transitional housing support.
Example: Responses to Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise the minimum wage so workers can afford housing - Expand affordable housing - Expand job training opportunities and education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer at a homeless shelter - Give fast food certificates to homeless persons who ask for help - Donate to an organization that does outreach to homeless persons

PROPOSED TEMPLATE FOR ESTABLISHING A PARISH-LEVEL SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

- 1. EDUCATION - Start by studying Catholic Social Teaching – *APC Social Justice Committee can provide a bibliography of books, encyclicals, web sites***
- 2. DIVIDE INTO “SOCIAL JUSTICE” AND “CHARITY” ACTIVITIES – recognizing that both are vitally important but are different and will appeal to different parishioners**
- 3. CHOOSE A THEME – can be the same for Social Justice and Charity Sub-Groups, or different**
- 4. DECIDE WHETHER TO APPROACH THE THEME FROM “LOCAL” OR “GLOBAL” PERSPECTIVE**
- 5. DECIDE WHETHER TO WORK WITHIN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OR ECUMENICAL**
- 6. SEARCH APC SOCIAL JUSTICE DATABASE TO FIND OTHER PARISHES WHO HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEES AND CONSULT WITH THEM**
- 7. SEARCH APC SOCIAL JUSTICE DATABASE (AND OTHER SOURCES) TO FIND OTHER GROUPS FOCUSING ON THE SELECTED THEME**
- 8. DEVELOP PLAN OF ACTION**

POWR (Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees)

...from the USCCB web site, Office of Resettlement Services:

Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees

Overview

POWR's goal is to develop long-term, sustainable programs. The positive impact of the POWR program has been significant. Since its inception in 2010, the participating dioceses have recruited thousands of parish and community volunteers who were assisting refugees adjust to life in the U.S. With the help of so many little friends, thousands of refugee clients received pro bono legal counsel and medical services, made friends, learned English, found work, and achieved social integration.

Impact

The POWR program has been extremely successful in increasing volunteer support, as well as generating local cash and in-kind donations. Analysis of the most recent program cycle shows that diocesan resettlement sites were able to generate \$4 for every \$1 of USCCB funding.

Documentation and Training

USCCB/Migration and Refugee Services launched a bi-monthly e-newsletter, The POWR Post, to document the successes of the program. This publication helps program participants (and other USCCB/MRS network affiliates) learn from one another, and thereby leverage new funding sources and improve upon their own programs. The electronic publication is accompanied by a series of workshops related to resource development and program oversight.

Testimonials

Innovative Ways to Engage Parishes

The engagement of our local Catholic community continues to surprise and humble. This is attributed to our POWR team, and I know that continued resources from USCCB will only increase our ability to refine and expand our efforts. This program has provided the foundation for strong working relationships in which our team continues to find innovative ways to engage parishes.

- Steven E. Bogus, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of Louisville, Inc.

Mobilizing parishioners for refugees

The POWR program made our parish more aware of the global refugee situation and opportunities to provide meaningful assistance. It supports an important partnership between Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County and local parishes; I cannot envision how many refugees would be able to cope and adjust well without the support of these important components.

- Parishioner at St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish, Santa Clara, California

A wonderful concept

POWR is a wonderful concept and I commend the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Migration and Refugee Services for their continued support of the program.

- Most Rev. Felipe J. Estévez, S.T.D., Bishop of St. Augustine

Who to Contact

Contact Daniel Sturm at dsturm@uscgb.org with any questions or contributions.

POWR Post E-Newsletter

The POWR Post E-Newsletter disseminates promising practices of the Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) program participants on a bi-monthly basis. Copies can be obtained upon request.

...from the web site of Boston Catholic Charities:

Parishes welcome newcomers through Catholic Charities

Submitted by admin on Fri, 06/30/2017 - 10:37am

Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services welcomed over 230 refugees last year alone, and we could not continue to do this work without the help and support of the community. One community in Danvers, as part of a Parish Organized to Welcome Refugees (or POWR) site, came together as two different church groups to provide for newcomers welcomed by Catholic Charities.

According to Grace Gaskill, the POWR coordinator for Catholic Charities of Boston, the volunteers dedicated to this project were incredibly helpful. "In the days leading up to the arrival of a Pakistani family of three, I organized a time for the groups to come and drop off household items, furniture, and toiletries, and some stayed to help me clean, organize, and make a home of the new apartment. [One couple] from the Danvers POWR site even came with us to the airport to greet the family, and bought them halal Pakistani takeout for their first meal in America. They also researched their religious sect, and bought them dates in order to help them break their fast."

If you or your parish is interested in helping through POWR, email info@ccab.org.

Parishes/People Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) Program Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigration Services

The goal of the POWR Program is to strengthen the ability of local churches to recruit and utilize volunteers to mentor and provide other needed supports to newly arrived refugees. The program relies on volunteer-led efforts to meet a range of resettlement needs such as housing, transportation, English language learning, acculturation, etc.

The POWR Program looks different for every parish it engages, but some common opportunities include:

- Creating a core POWR team of 2-3 church members interested in helping refugees.
- Collecting household, toiletry, and monetary donations to provide the newly-arrived refugee family.
- Securing housing and setting up the apartment.
- Welcoming the family at the airport.
- Helping with resettlement tasks such as taking clients to sign up for benefits, go to doctor's appointments, and register children for school.
- Organizing special refugee events and outreach activities to help to promote integration into new community.
- Companionship – inviting the family over for dinner, showing them around the community, etc.
- Helping the family practice their English.

Parishes/Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR)

Putting social justice into action through welcoming refugees into your community



Airport arrival



Community gathering with a refugee family

MISSION

What? In 2010, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops launched the Parishes/People Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR) program to intensify volunteer involvement in resettlement at the parish level to create a welcoming environment for incoming refugee families.

Who? Any faith-based or community group interested in helping us resettle refugee families.

Why? Catholic Charities has a historic commitment to resettling refugees. Through our years of experience, we've learned that refugees are more likely to thrive when supported by communities.

How? Call or email Grace Gaskill (grace_gaskill@ccab.org / 617-464-8023) to learn more about opportunities to support refugee families.

Live out social justice by welcoming newcomers and helping to create a just and compassionate society rooted in the dignity of all people.

Do you feel called to pursue Social Justice?

*Would you like to learn more about the documents of
Catholic Social Teaching?*

*Would you like to help make connections between social justice groups and
activities across the Archdiocese?*

The APC Social Justice Committee may be for you!

Over the past few years, our work has included:

- Studying and becoming familiar with the Social Teaching documents of the Church
- Discerning, pondering and reporting to Cardinal Seán and the APC about pressing social justice issues in the Archdiocese, in particular since 2016, the situation of refugees and immigrants
- Providing tools for parishes and collaboratives to establish social justice committees
- Beginning work on a database of all active social justice groups in parishes and collaboratives
- Supporting the annual Archdiocesan Social Justice Convocation.

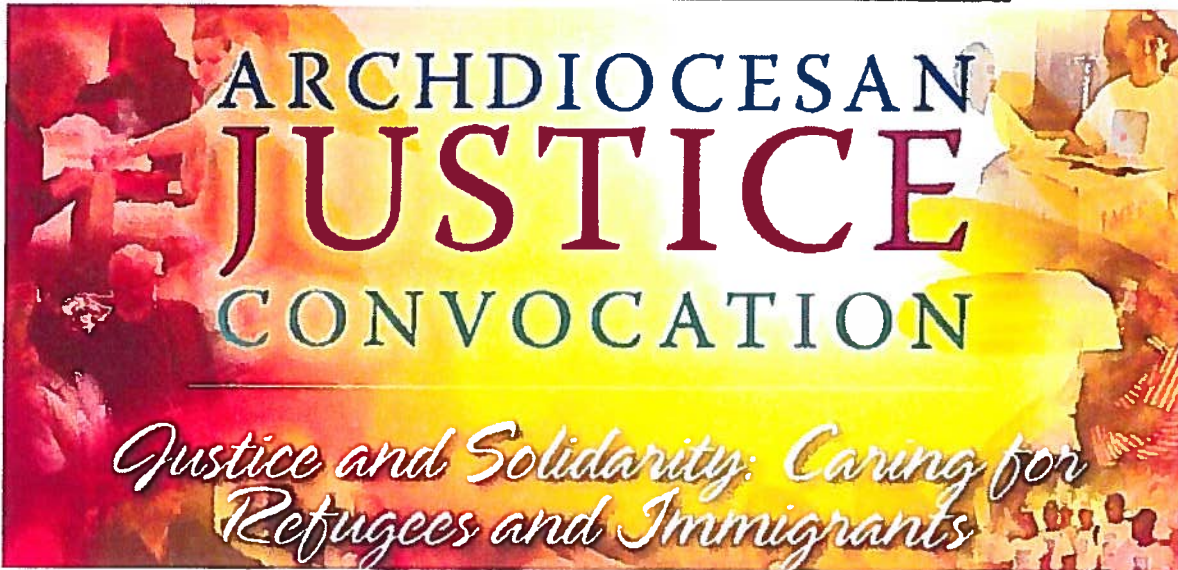
The Committee meets approximately six times per year, customarily on Saturday mornings at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brighton.

For more information, or to join our Committee, contact Sister Marian Batho at SisterMarian_Batho@rcab.org

We look forward to welcoming you as a new Committee member!

ARCHDIOCESAN JUSTICE CONVOCATION 2017

Cardinal Seán O'Malley hopes that every parish in the Archdiocese will send at least one delegate to the Justice Convocation this year.



Pope Francis has declared that “the only solution to the migration crisis is solidarity.” He appeals to all of us to welcome our brothers and sisters who are fleeing war, hunger, violence and cruel conditions of life.

Come to the Convocation and learn the facts about Refugees and Immigrants, understand how Catholic Social Teaching calls us to act, and explore specific ways you can get involved and give witness to your faith.

FEATURING: Greeting from Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, Keynote Address: Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, Keynote Address: Sean Callahan, President and CEO, Catholic Relief Services, Keynote Panel chaired by Debbie Rambo, President of Catholic Charities Boston, Small Group Faith Sharing, Holy Mass, Extended Networking Break with Exhibitors, parish representatives and ethnic communities throughout the Archdiocese.

WHEN.... SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 20178AM to 1:30PM

Boston College High School, 150 Morrissey Blvd, Boston 02125....COST: \$20.00

To register online, please visit <http://bostoncatholic.org/Justice/>

For more information, please contact Jennifer Murphy or Sister Marian Batho at socialjustice@rcab.org or (617)746-5738 / (617)746-5637