

**Saint Joan of Arc
Parish Social Ministry
Guidelines and Implementation**



August 1, 2019

1. Introduction

This document provides the definitions and foundation for St. Joan of Arc Social Ministry principles and program. We also outline the roles and responsibilities of the St. Joan of Arc, Catholic Identity Committee. Social ministry is an important component for us as we put our “faith into action”. We are called by the Gospel to “treat others as we would like to be treated” and to perform the corporal works of mercy. Social ministries and justice are not about political party affiliation, picking up on the latest hot-button issue, or turning Mass into a political rally. Rather, social ministry is an expression of our love for God and one another. It transforms us interiorly so we can transform our community.

Parish social ministry (PSM) is a mechanism for the entire community to genuinely love and serve God and others, and for us to be in the world but not of the world. The primary goals of PSM are to help people hear and discern their call, find concrete ways to serve those in need, and build better communities. These goals are carried out through prayer, education, advocacy, and direct service action with a focus on promoting the consistent ethic of life rather than whatever the current hot-button issues are in the news.

2. Foundations of SJA Social Ministry. At St. Joan of Arc, our Social Ministry is based upon three fundamental areas: Communities of Salt and Light, Catholic Social Teaching and our SJA Parish Vision and Mission.

2a. Communities of Salt and Light.

As outlined in the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops letter: “Communities of Salt and Light, Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish”, and the Archdiocese of Baltimore document: “Parish Social Ministry Guidebook”, our Social Ministry foundation is upon seven essential principals:

- Prayer and Worship
- Preaching and Education
- Family, Work, and Citizenship
- Outreach and Charity
- Legislative Action
- Organizing for Justice
- Beyond Parish Boundaries

Each component impacts the whole life of the parish and helps us bring the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching into the mission and everyday work of a parish.

2b. Catholic Social Teaching (CST). CST is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society for all and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. It is rooted in Hebrew and Christian Scriptures as well as a 100+ year history of papal encyclicals, bishops’ letters, and other official documents all focused on the economic, political, and social concerns of humanity. Generally, CST is organized into seven main principles:

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Option for People who live in Poverty and are Vulnerable
- Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- Solidarity
- Care for Creation

2c. St. Joan of Arc and Parish Vision and Mission: to spread the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to form missionary disciples, and to meet the spiritual and nurturing needs of our community.

3. SJA Areas of Social Ministry

3a. St. Joan of Arc Parish Social Ministry Mission. The mission of the St. Joan of Arc Parish Social Ministry Committee is to integrate the message of the Gospel into the life of our parish. We do this by:

- Providing educational opportunities on the social ministry dimension of our faith
- Informing parishioners of opportunities to help others and engaging them to do charitable works
- Promoting a just society by raising awareness of issues that are unjust, and by advocating for fair and just solutions
- Developing an understanding that our parish is in the world and to engage the parish in opportunities for solidarity
- Our ministry is rooted in prayer and guided by Catholic Social Teaching.

3b. St. Joan of Arc Parish Social Ministry Vision. The vision of the St. Joan of Arc Parish Social Ministry Committee is that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching will be integrated into every aspect of the parish. This vision includes providing opportunities for all parishioners to serve in the areas of charity and outreach, advocacy, community organizing, and solidarity.

3c. The following ministries are the principle outreach efforts for Social Ministry at SJA. Each of the following ministries develops their own objectives and collaborates with the Parish Social Ministry Committee, Pastoral Council, and Parish Staff for coordination, resources and support. These ministries are:

- Good Samaritan Ministry.
- Martha's Meals
- Homebound Ministry
- Christmas Helping Ministries
- SJA School Social Service Projects
- Confirmation Service Projects

- Bereavement Luncheon Support
- Respect Life Activities
- Aberdeen Ecumenical Engagement and Harford Family House
- Organizations that directly contribute to our Social Ministry efforts are the Knights of Columbus and Legion of Mary

4. The Parish Social Ministry Committee members and meeting schedule.

4a. Composition from the Parish staff, School, and ministries:

- Deacons – Chairman
- SJA Youth Minister
- SJA Business Manager
- SJA Principal and/or Teacher representative
- Pastoral Council Member
- Good Samaritan Ministry
- Martha's Meals
- Homebound Ministry
- Christmas Helping Ministries
- SJA School Social Service Projects
- Confirmation Service Projects
- Bereavement Luncheon Support
- Respect Life Activities
- Aberdeen Ecumenical Engagement and Harford Family House
- Knights of Columbus
- Legion of Mary

4b. The Parish Social Ministry Committee will meet four times a year. We will discuss the past quarter's events and review the parish upcoming calendar (six months out) and discuss upcoming planned Social Ministry events, initiatives and activities. The Social Committee will discuss priorities and recommendations for our Social Ministry programs. We will identify resource requirements or coordination needed from the Parish Staff, Pastoral Council, School staff and/or from other parish ministry leaders. These items will be forwarded for review and support to the Parish Staff or Pastoral Council. Each year the Social Committee will brief the Pastor and review this charter.

Rev. William Franken

**William Franken
Pastor
St. Joan of Arc**