

Stewardship – The Fifth Pillar

“When I was hungry, you gave me food....” (The parable of the last judgment, Matthew 25). The fifth and final pillar of our Vision Statement is - *“Parish Social Ministry: We bring our faith to life by serving others through compassionate personal outreach, and commitment to social justice.”* Here are the goals and objectives from the brainstorming session, and the time frames and lead person, or parish ministry(s) responsible for bringing them to life in our faith community over the next few years. These parish leaders can only accomplish our dreams with your assistance!

Goal #1: Develop a more personalized approach to meet specific client needs. Those who come to our Parish Outreach office are in various social conditions. Some are disabled, others are going through a temporary hardship who can be assisted with resources to help them and finally, some are senior citizens in need of care.

Objectives: 1) To train parish ministers (volunteers) regarding best practices for assisting disabled clients. We will accomplish this sometime in 2017. Our Parish Social Ministry (PSM) Director (Nina Petersen) will lead this effort, along with nonprofit professionals from nearby agencies, who will be invited to assist us. 2) To develop resources to assist parish ministers (volunteers) with their teaching of clients the management of their resources. By introducing these clients to other resources from government and other sources, we will seek to assist them in increasing their household income. This will be accomplished in 2017. Our Director of Parish Social Ministry and Ministry Volunteer Caseworkers will lead this effort. 3) To explore expansion of Social Services to the homebound/low income seniors. This will be accomplished through an extension of the Friendly Visitors program, and in conjunction with our Youth Ministry (SKY) and/or Family Ministry. 2018 is our target year for this to be accomplished. The PSM Director will lead this in collaboration with the Director of Youth Ministry (Mary Mullan) and/or the Director of Family Ministry (Barbara McNulty).

Goal #2: Advocate Social Justice Issues by educating the parish about Catholic Social Teaching.

Objectives: 1) Form a Social Justice Committee by June 2017, with ministry volunteers who come forth from the Stewardship of Time and Talent weekends. 2) Determine the two social justice issues that will be the targets for the Social Justice Committee (SJC) in 2018. The Director of PSM and the pastor will coordinate this. 3) Develop a plan to engage the parish through educational bulletin inserts, invitation to political lobbying and organization of letter writing campaigns.

Goal #3: Increase food resources so we can invite clients with great need to visit our food pantry more often. (This is an attempt to give increased assistance to our clients whose supply of food is most insecure for themselves or their families.)

Objectives: 1) Recruit ministry volunteers to assist in developing and implementing a plan to increase food supply. (This person(s) will establish connections with local community organizations, schools, sports clubs, etc. so that we can have a schedule that will include organizing one major food drive each month during the year.) We hope to accomplish this in 2017 (PSM Director)

2) Meet with pantry workers to determine what foods will be offered and how they will be distributed, when clients come for additional help. This was accomplished in the fall 2016.

3) Train all ministry volunteers on “*added visit procedures*”. This involves the development of a smooth process when clients come for a second visit in need of food. This will be different from the process of regular food orders. Target date: 2017. This will be coordinated by the PSM Director and PSM Core Ministry Volunteers.

The five pillars of our Vision Statement will be realized only with your ministry involvement. Many of you are working closely in ministry with parish leadership, lay and ordained, to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in the Farmingdale area. Thank you for your generous contribution! If you are not yet involved, you are greatly needed. Christ our Lord has called you by name to come and follow him. Let any one of our Pastoral Team members (listed in the bulletin) know of your interest, and discuss your ministry.