

## FORMING DISCIPLES... BY OUR WITNESS AND WORKS OF CHARITY AND JUSTICE...



RCIA 75.4 is short and to the point: “Since the Church’s life is apostolic, catechumens should also learn how to work actively with others to spread the Gospel and build up the Church by the witness of their lives and by professing their faith.” Those seeking to join the Church learn to be Church by doing. The same is true for those of us who were baptized as infants and then grow into the Church. To be a disciple of Jesus means to be an evangelist: one who shares the story of Jesus, and the difference he has made in our lives, by what we say and what we do. And part of what we do is be of service to others in Jesus’ name: to take part in the works of charity and justice.<sup>1</sup>

### 3 Questions

How do we reflect the apostolic nature of Church life? How might we focus less on ourselves and more on the community around us, on those “on the margins,” as Pope Francis would say?

How aware is our parish of Catholic Social Teaching, and how have we put that teaching into practice? Are we active in serving the needs of those around us (charity) and in trying to make our communities better (justice)?

When people ask why we engage in the works of charity and justice, do we share with them our faith in Jesus?

### Resources

Kevin Ahern, et al., *The Liturgy and Catholic Social Teaching: Participation in Worship and the World*. Liturgy Training Publications, 2019.

Jerry Galipeau, *Apprenticed to Christ: Activities for Practicing the Catholic Way of Life*. World Library Publications, 2007.

USCCB Website: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/two-feet-of-love-in-action.cfm>

CRS Videos: <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/CST-101>

Other resources may be found on our Vision 2020 website:  
<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/evangelization-resources>

### Contact

Kent Ferris / Social Action Office / 563-888-4211 / [ferris@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:ferris@davenportdiocese.org)

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<sup>1</sup>Diana Macalintal, *Your Parish is the Curriculum: RCIA in the Midst of the Community* (Liturgical Press, 2018), 81-2.