Social Justice

Diocese of Monterey

What does **Social Justice** ministry at the Diocese of Monterey look like?

The Diocese of Monterey works to build the Kingdom of God, in which racism, oppression and injustice have no place. We are guided by the knowledge that all people are children of the one God, created equally and loved equally by our Father.

EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

Social Justice Ministry is rooted in informing those who can make change and standing up for those who cannot. Even in the pandemic, our Social Justice Ministry has been busy educating our communities and advocating on behalf of our most vulnerable. 2020 brought us several events that generated meaningful conversations:

Church and Racism June 2020

125 participants from throughout the Diocese, 450 views on YouTube

Faithful Citizenship and Voting Fall 2020

139 participants from throughout the Diocese, 122 views on YouTube

Community Partnerships and Causes

2020 Census ● Death & Dying with Dignity/Hospice ● Monterey County Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee ● Environmental Justice ● Restorative Justice & Ministry to the Incarcerated ● Monterey County Sheriff's Clergy Advisory Council ● Local/State Public Policy

Environmental Justice

- Promote *Laudato Si,* Pope Francis' call to fight climate change by installing solar energy
- Leader in establishing Monterey Bay Community Power, a nonprofit utility providing clean, renewable energy to all consumers within our Diocese. This approach has become a model for parishes nationwide and was highlighted by the Vatican in 2017.
- Help protect farmworkers and rural communities from pesticide spraying, fertilizer and chemical runoff and water contamination.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Social Justice also means providing basic needs people need to be able to realize their potential. The Social Justice Ministry organized an emergency food program for unsheltered homeless people affected by the coronavirus shutdown.

From April—November 2020:

13,500 bags delivered

200,000+ pounds of food distributed

300 homeless people in **7 encampments**

72 volunteer participants