

## Initiative 2 Deepen Our Witness to Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

Our faith tradition offers us the heritage of Catholic social teaching, which finds its roots in the words of the prophets and the life of Jesus Christ. As we continue to move with mercy to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger and clothe the naked (Matthew 25:35-40), in addition, we will act with justice to change systems and structures that stand in the way of human rights and dignity for all. We will provide deeper formation for parishioners on this call to both charity and justice. We are one human family, living in solidarity with neighbors near and far to build a world more reflective of God's justice, mercy and peace.

Imagine

1. Consider creating a monthly forum with a specific topic to be discussed, followed by open questions/dialogue, attended by church leadership.
2. I just want our young people to hear our principles of Catholic Social Teaching. I think this is what they most believe and value. How do we get this message to the young people who no longer come to church at all, do not read the Bulletin, etc.
3. Draw the circle wide! Include all! Have the courage to call all to the table of the Lord, ALL no judgement, no exclusion. Become a beacon of light. Jesus called the tax collector down from the tree and said I will dine with you tonight. Let all dine.
4. Teach how to fill out forms. Social security/SSDI/SSI, short term disability, long term disability. How to address mental health system and process. How to protect yourself from social service programs? Medical insurance advocacy programs. Once a month help people with their needs.
5. We would try to consider how the things we say/do affect/impact others around us that we know or don't know or the earth-and let it impact what we do and say.
6. Expand what GA has done. Care for the chronically homeless. Bring ethnic and racial groups to the attention of GA parishioners – direct interaction, local sister parish-the attention to care for God's creation for young people e.g. Greta Thune. Have the Handy Angels get involved with the poor homeowners and renters.
7. We live out our Catholic Social Teaching by being the light of Christ to others. For example: HJH, Loaves and Fishes.
8. Imagine our political leaders being respectful to one another and to anyone who disagrees with him/her. Just think how they could affect their constituents and the public at large (the world too) find a way to spread positive ways of government and growth of humanity.
9. Everyone was happily engaged in caring and reaching out and advocating. Point out where people are already doing these things so they recognize what they could do more of.
10. Younger people, influence could teach all of us to become more tolerant.
11. There wouldn't be an us-them, we they.
12. More engaged with social teaching principles: that we come together with other Christian and non-Christian denominations and attend a service or one of their community events. Being part of communities around the metro area.
13. CST needs to be central in our teaching. I have heard it described as "the best kept secret of the Catholic Church. This needs to change! GA needs to be the conduit for involvement in activities consistent with these teachings in the world. The first point is about "gathering" the second about "sending".
14. Every commission should be working on Catholic Social Teaching-just in their own way. Show how that is happening.

15. I wish people of privilege would seek to understand – truly understand- what it means to be privileged. Understand our current systems are harmful for so many different people.
16. CST that is wonderful. Susan did great and we all need more of this. It should be the heart of what the parish does. Why isn't it.
17. More focus on commission activities that tie to CST.
18. Love expressed for equally for those who are like us and those who are different. Becoming more mission focused and less about rules.
19. 2X as long needed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> one on social justice. We just got started. This should be done at Sunday mass for everybody. Maybe a special series for a few weeks.
20. Imagine housing that is affordable for all. Living wage. NO "ghettoes" of ethnicity. All religions are valued ad respected.
21. More joint efforts between faiths to obtain justice in housing, wages, living conditions, and work. Gay marriages in all faiths.
22. We are one human family and we should treat each other that way. Find ways to associate the Catholic Social Teaching in you daily life.
23. I think we can live out CST by involving more people. There are too few several people trying to do many things.
24. How are these teachings best brought to the broader community? (instead of small groups) Does hierarchy promote their teachings fully. How ca we really live these principles?
25. I love this parish. I learned a new word at my table today---the sacred cow! Never used that one. We have them. The mailed newsletter. The boring Bulletin. The fall fundraiser that gets talked about week after week after week. Take what is most important and do it more. The 2<sup>nd</sup> talk about justice. DO THAT more and everything else will follow. TRUST, thank you for today---we should do this kind of conversation more too.
26. Many of the "none's" may not be in our community now...but imagine if they still felt "part of the family" by being out in the world living and working for the social justice issues.
27. Each social teaching principle needs to be the faces of a homily. The ministries need to connect with one or more social teaching. Everyone at GA should work out their journey based on these principles.
28. Typica/average person in the pew doesn't know these—educate. Practical steps to implement in my life---communicate potentials.
29. Preach from the pulpit CST.
30. Try not to force or guilt people to serve in existing ministries out of need (e.g. Agenda) but rather provide avenues for them to serve in areas that better meet their skills and wants.
31. Think of new ways to accomplish CST. (Global warming commission, software development for building APPs commission.)
32. We need to do a better job of educating people about CST before we can expect then to engage. Some ideas----start book clubs that read about CST both in principle and practice. ----Movie clubs that do the same thing. Highlight examples where we are practicing CST.
33. We must stay focused on helping immigrant laborers to organize for better wages and benefits.
34. Climate change and care of creation. Time to re-institute Environmental Action Team. Collaboration in broader community.
35. Add "volunteer" more clearly in Bulletin and on the Website for social justice opportunities. They don't have to be parish sponsored.
36. How do we engage more people to volunteer for social justice activities life HJH?
37. Expand social justice teaching so more people know about this.

38. Outside the Parish-Action a longer table—community interfaith collaboration on homeless, immigration, relationships, voting, restorative justice, none's.
39. Based on the dignity of the human person. Advocacy for immigrants and refugees esp. on the southern border.
40. Human trafficking in Washington County. Daily meals for those who are homeless. The suffering homeless people. Affordable housing not available for those who need it.
41. Invite people outside of our parish to speak on different issues so that our members may better know the face of some of our Social Justice Issues.
42. Needs—affordable housing, food, aware of injustice—human trafficking—social needs like health, clothing, mental health.
43. There are many teachings that are important but not relative to society. Way to leave our faith on the doorstep in to be visible in our relationship to each other's and strangers.
44. Imagine where people listen to each other even when they disagree.
45. Life and dignity of the human person. All people are precious, LGBTQ, single parents, divorced, immigrants.
46. Caring for God's creation—educating about climate change and not neglecting nature for what it is.
47. Teach more young people about the CST. Discussions about rights and responsibility with people, so they can learn about what they can give back. Events where we can care for God's creation, clean the earth.
48. Educate parishioners on how they can compost and recycle more at home. Share resources from the county that are available to them, etc. And educate on this CST while doing so.
49. Education of the parish is important. Start a book club to discuss fiction and nonfiction books on this subject. Make it clear that mistreatment of human immigrants is sinful. What you do to the least of my children you do to me.
50. Teaching that with rights comes responsibility.
51. Care for God's creation with climate change becoming an issue, we need to be more aware. It does not need to be political.
52. Encourage more people to serve as volunteers at programs that can support both the needy and the volunteer.
53. Become a sustainable parish to promote environmentalism. Provide directed guidance for people who wish to serve outside the GA community. Serve our Oakdale/Woodbury communities.