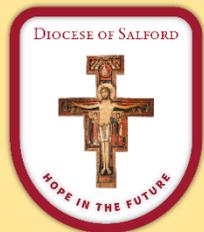


Catholic Social Teaching

Pointing The Way to Social Action



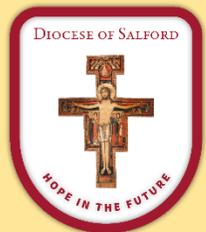
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What this workshop will cover...

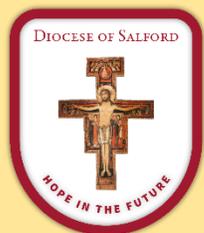
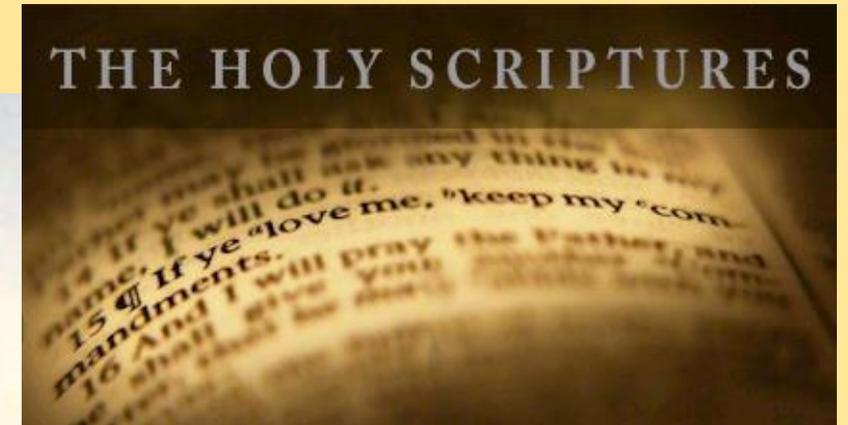
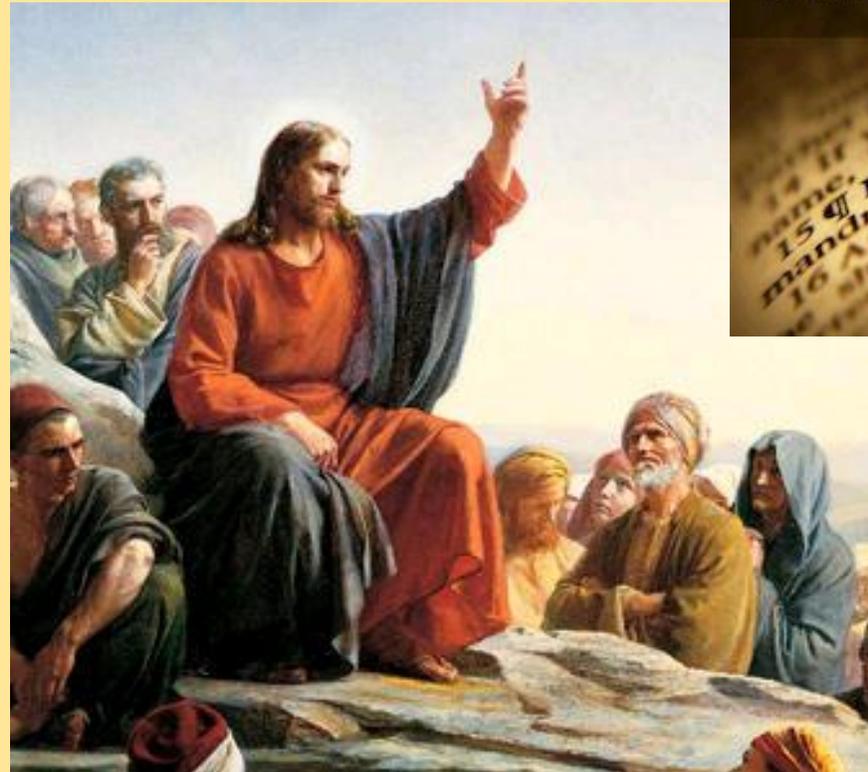
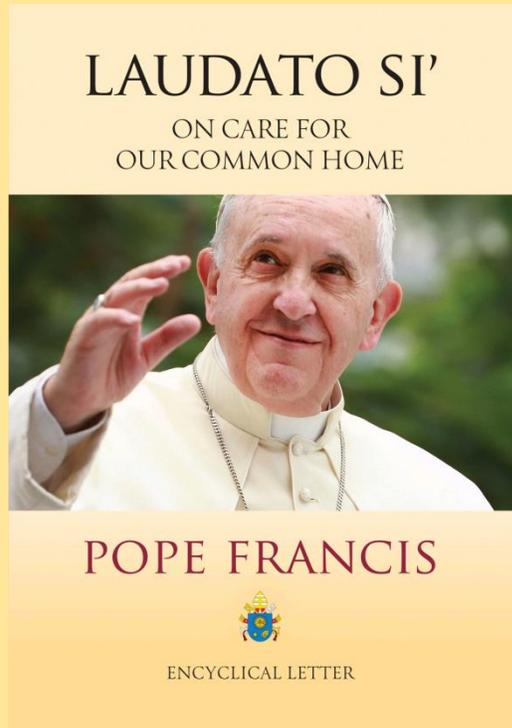
- What Catholic Social Teaching is and where it comes from.
- Charitable Giving versus Social Action – what's the difference?
- How CST can lead us to Social Action.
- Ideas for where to start.
- Parish Action Plan time.



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What is CST and where does it come from?



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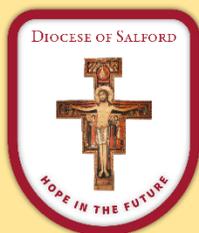


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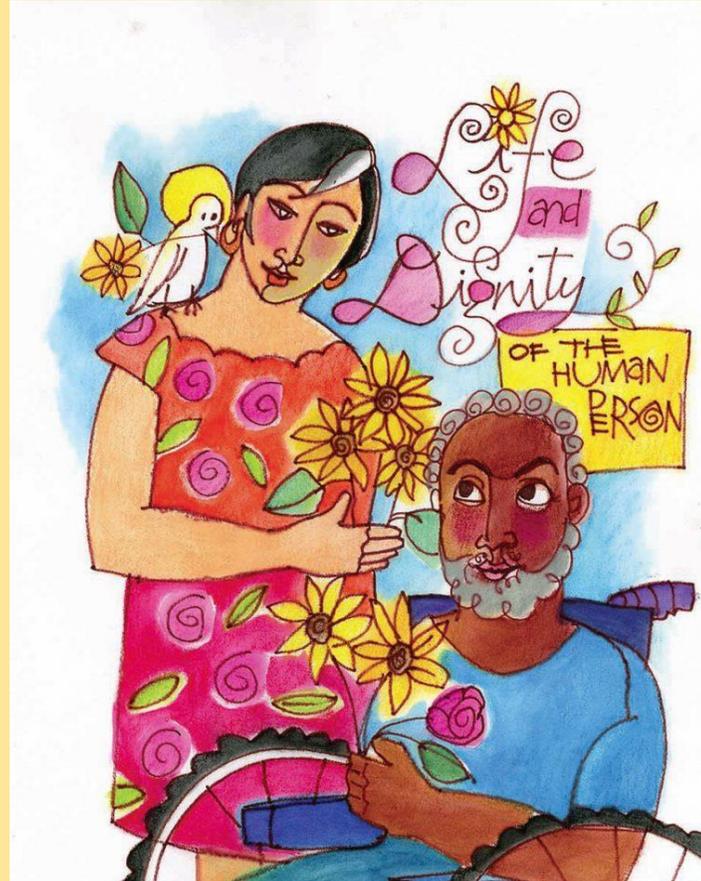
7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

- 1. Dignity of the Human Person.**
- 2. Family & Community.**
- 3. Solidarity and the Common Good.**
- 4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.**
- 5. Rights and Responsibilities.**
- 6. Dignity of Work.**
- 7. Stewardship.**



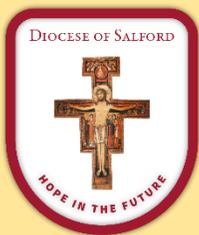
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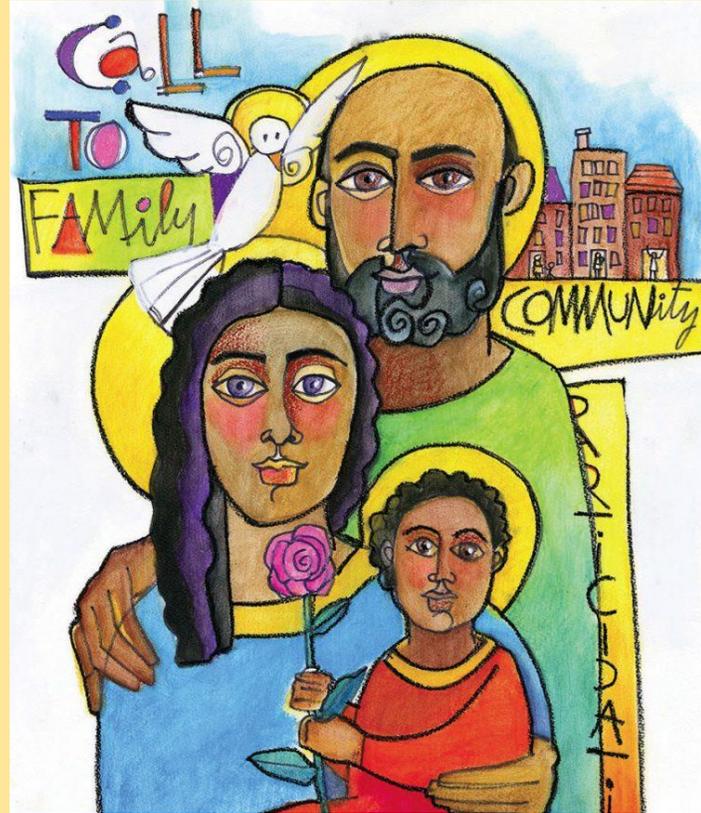
Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Jeremiah 1:5.

The Dignity of the Human Person

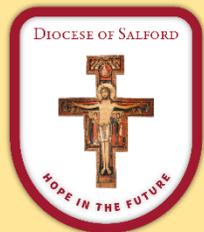


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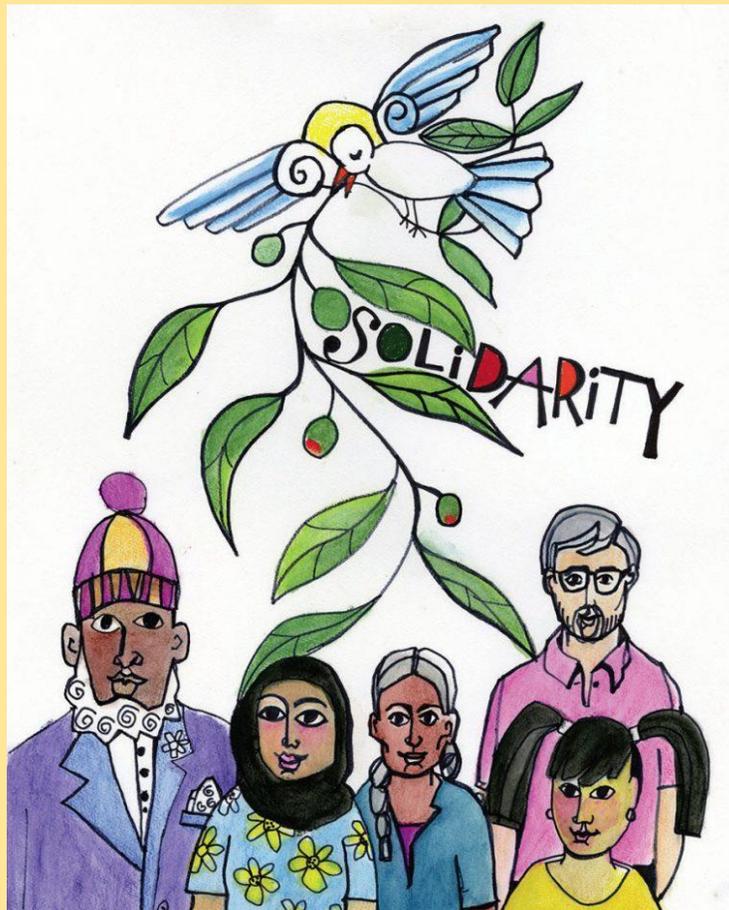
*And he has given us this command:
Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. 1 John 4:19*



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**Family &
Community**





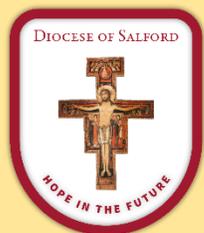
In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it to me.

Matthew 25:40

You are not making a gift of your possessions to the poor person.

You are handing over to them what is theirs.

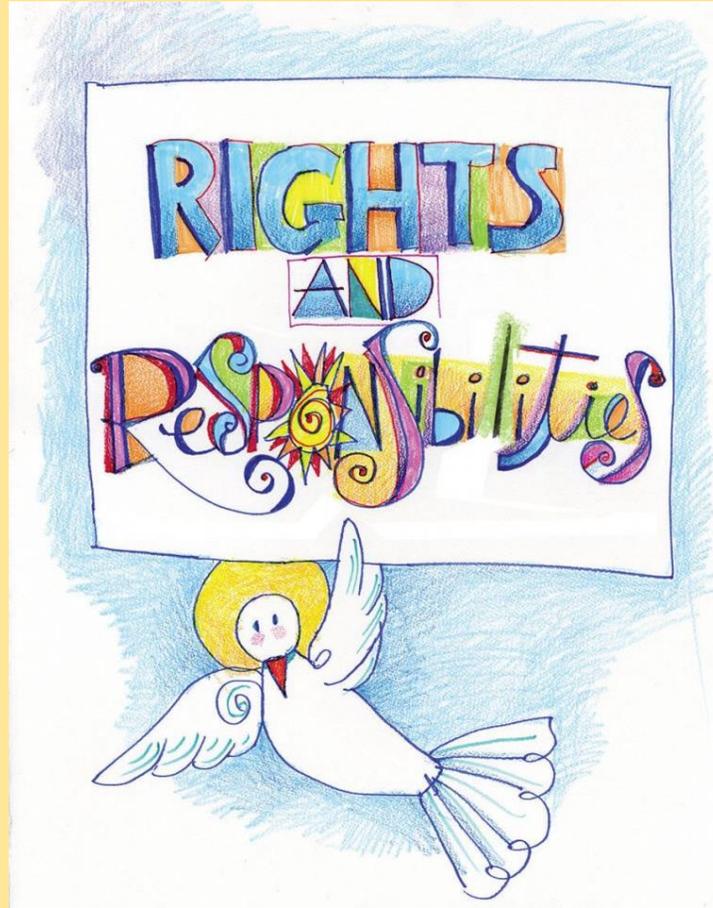
Saint Ambrose (340-397 AD)



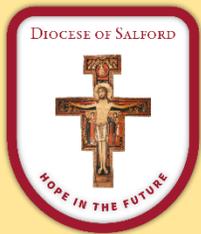
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**Solidarity &
The Common Good**





Faith without works is nothing. James 2:17

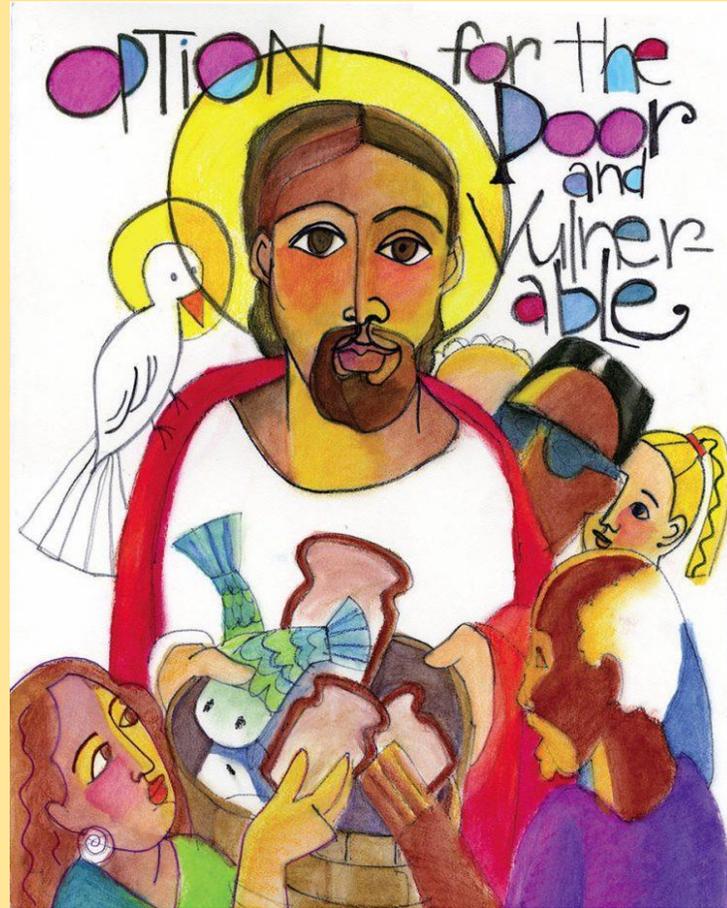


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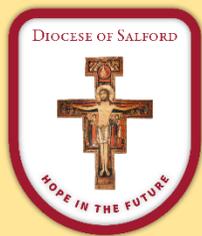
Rights &
Responsibilities



*The spirit of the Lord is on me,
for he has anointed me to bring
the good news to the afflicted.
He has sent me...to let the
oppressed go free.*
Luke 4:18



**Option for the Poor
& The Vulnerable**

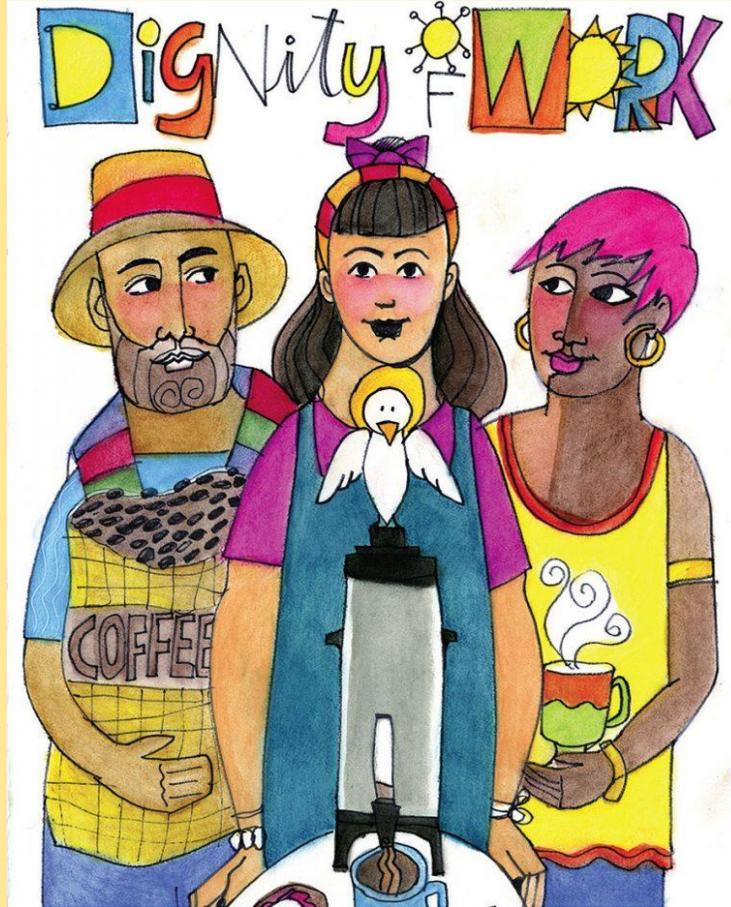


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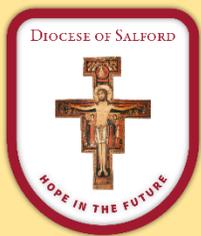


*A small number of very rich men
have been able to lay upon the
teeming masses of the labouring
poor a yoke little better than that
of slavery itself.*

Rerum Novarum, 1891, #3



The Dignity of Work

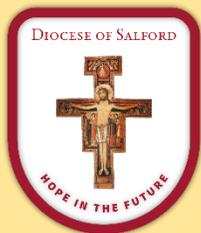
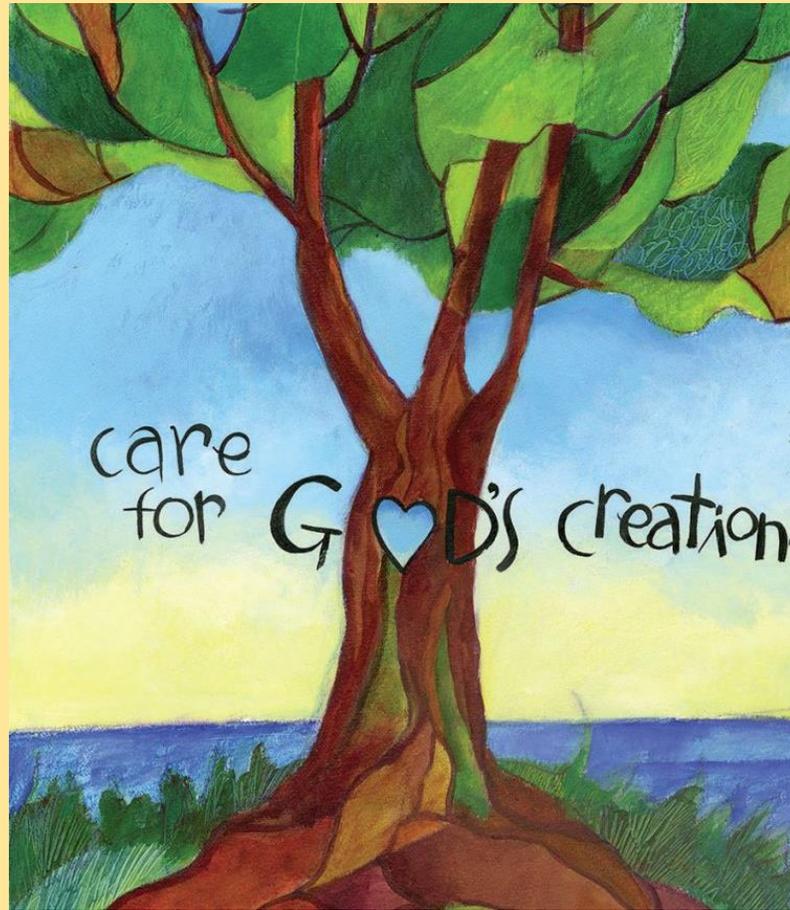


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*Who turned the wonder world
of the seas into underwater
cemeteries bereft of colour and
life?*

*Catholic Bishops of the
Philippines, 1988*



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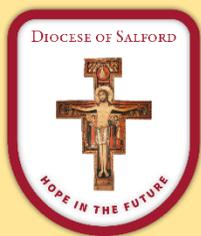
Stewardship



Charitable Giving V Social Action

Is there a difference?

Both are essential signs of the Gospel at work.



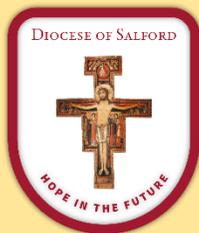
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What Is Charitable Giving?

- Requires an immediate response.
- Meets a specific need.
- May involve giving regular support.
- Often involves a collection or fund-raising.
- Can be local, national or international.

Many parishes are very successful at charitable giving.



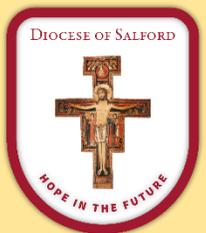
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What is Social Action?

- Involves working for change.
- Focuses on systems.
- May aim to transform policy.
- May be a longer-term response to a need.
- Looks to change structures which deny rights and dignity.
- Advocacy for those without a voice.

*There tends to be many charitable activities
but fewer actions for social justice in parishes.*

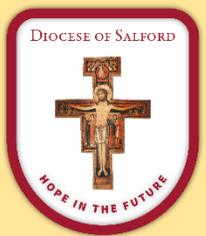


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Reasons why might we be challenged more by Social Action activities?

- We might think it is the responsibility of someone else.
- May be controversial in nature.
- Takes time, commitment, preparation & co-ordination.
- Sometimes attracts “Lone Ranger” syndrome.
- There are so many issues to choose from it can feel overwhelming.
- Not sure where help is available.
- Fear it will become too demanding.

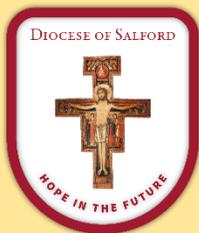


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Discuss the following

- What is the balance between Charitable Giving and Social Action activity in your parish?
- What are the most pressing needs in the local community?
- How far is your parish involved in helping to address these needs?
- What more could you do?
- What is holding you back?



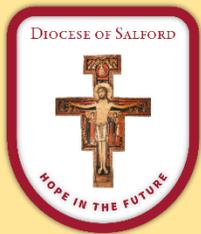
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How CST can lead us to Social Action

- Pope Francis is calling for a “Poor Church for the Poor.” We have to respond and become “Missionary Disciples”.
- Is part & parcel of HITF initiative.
- We are called to serve those in need AND work for justice and the pursuit of peace.
- Think about the practical dimension of your own faith – what are you personally being called to?
- Jesus’ writings and the writings of the apostles contain deep and challenging messages.
- Pope Francis calls us to action almost daily.



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“...there are still too many situations in which human beings are treated as objects whose conception, configuration and utility can be programmed, and who can then be discarded when no longer useful, due to illness, weakness and old age...” *Address to European Parliament, 25 November 2014.*

“Solidarity is not an additional attitude, it is not a form of social alms-giving but, rather, a social value; and it asks us for its citizenship.”
Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation
25th May 2013.



“Today the Church is renewing her urgent appeal that the dignity and centrality of every individual always be safeguarded, with respect for fundamental rights, as her social teaching emphasises. She asks that these rights be extended for millions of men and women on every continent wherever they are not recognised.”

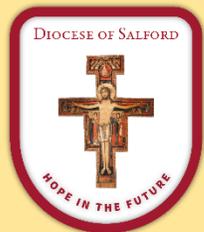
Pope Francis’ address to participants in the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of migrants and itinerant people. 24 May 2013.

Our throwaway culture affects the poor and quickly reduces all things to rubbish... Make a serious commitment to care for creation, to pay attention to every person, to combat the culture of waste.

With you the world can be different.
Unless you offer the best of yourselves,
the world will never be different.

Some suggestions to get you started

- Refresh the parish on what CST is and the themes.
- Use the themes of CST as a check for current parish activities. Which theme/s do your activities link to? Are you being diverted from the real priorities?
- Identify issues based on real need within your local community.
- Start small but make it a central part of parish life. How?
- Appoint a Caritas Parish rep.
- Keep it simple – don't put people off by using complex language.

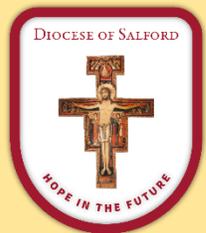


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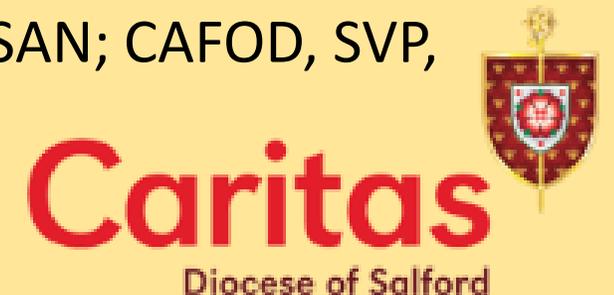


More suggestions to get you started

- Try out the YCW model of SEE – JUDGE – ACT.
- Set some SMART Goals for any activities you are planning.
- Identify a core team (x-parish; x-deanery; multi faith) who have the skills to engage the wider parish community.
- Don't do everything yourself just because it will be quicker. Involve less experienced but willing parishioners.
- Link in to all the help available through the Diocese, Caritas, CSAN; CAFOD, SVP, Pax Christi; Church Action on Poverty; NJPN; schools etc.

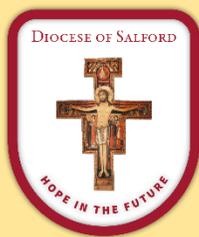


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Recap

- What Catholic Social Teaching is and where it comes from.
- Charitable Giving versus Social Action – what's the difference?
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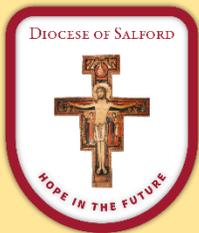
Action Planning

HOPE IN THE FUTURE: PARISH SOCIAL ACTION DAY ~ ACTION PLANNING SHEET



Main Points To Take Away (SEE & HEAR)	Impact In Our Parish (JUDGE)	Our Initial Thoughts (REFLECT)	Our First Steps Towards Action (ACT)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

*Catholic Social Teaching ~
Let's not keep it a secret any longer!*



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