

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

CHARTER: To identify and maintain active outreach programs that respond compassionately to the needs of the disadvantaged and the members of our community, and to actively advocate for social justice for all.

GOAL: Respond to the needs of the disadvantaged through financial support and service projects while advocating for systemic change which will promote the long-term solutions to social justice issues.

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES
Judiciously raise, administer and disperse funds the community allocates for outreach programs through Project Share, the monthly Poor Box, the Haitian sub-committee's efforts and Archbishop's Annual Appeal Parish funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Share Grant Program: Review applications in accordance with guidelines, make recommendation for funding and provide information to the community regarding grant recipients and awards. • Poor Box: Select appropriate recipients and provide information to the community regarding recipients and allocations • Provide support for our sister parish in Haiti through various fundraisers, e.g. Change for Haiti, Student sponsorships, etc. <p>In concert with the pastor, make recommendations regarding distribution of Parish's rebate from the Annual Appeal</p>
Heighten community awareness of local needs through parish-wide giving drives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Clothing drive for St. Vincent • Back to School Drive • Christmas Projects: Giving Tree and Adopt-a-Family. • Springfield Bingo •
Increase community understanding and participation in advocacy events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor parish wide education program on Social Justice • Represent parish in Archdiocese's Annual Social Justice Convocation • Maintain memberships in advocacy organizations such as: Md. Catholic Conference, Network, Pax Christi, Bread for the World • Maintain advocacy alert program

<p>Care for the needs of parishioners as they arise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer the Caring and Sharing program
<p>Provide volunteer opportunities for community members for various outreach and advocacy programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage volunteerism in outreach efforts, e.g., UCAN, prison ministry, annual Springfield Hospital bingo party, and participation in various advocacy efforts e.g. MCC's Lobby night, letter writing campaigns, rallies on social justice issues, e.g., affordable housing, elimination of the death penalty, etc. • Organize and promote parish wide service projects during Lent.