

HOSPITALITY IN

Our Charitable Works

The Sacrament of Charity is for All Catholics not just a committed few. While most Catholics today hear the Word proclaimed and celebrate in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, too few Catholics are engaged in the ministries of Charity. The Eucharist compels all who believe in Him to become “bread that is broken” for others. This invitation is for all believers not just the mission of a few committed people. How do we organize our parishes to give EVERY Catholic the opportunity to engage in the social mission?



REFLECT

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? [Micah 6:8](#)

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me... [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

We are transformed by the sacraments of Christ into the Lord's sacramental presence in society. In this sense, to be holy is to be Christ's sacrament in the world, to be a sign and an instrument of Christ for others, to be the salt that revives the saddened soul and the light that awakens a weary world.

[Call to Holiness, Bishop Jaime Soto](#)

Our communities, when they celebrate the Eucharist, must become ever more conscious that the sacrifice of Christ is for all, and that the Eucharist thus compels all who believe in him to become “bread that is broken” for others, and to work for the building of a more just and fraternal world. Keeping in mind the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, we need to realize that Christ continues today to exhort his disciples to become personally engaged: “You yourselves, give them something to eat” (Mt 14:16). Each of us is truly called, together with Jesus, to be bread broken for the life of the world. [Sacramentum Caritatis, 88](#)

The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God (kerygma-martyria), celebrating the sacraments (leitourgia), and exercising the ministry of charity (diakonia). ... love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to the Church as the ministry of the sacraments and the preaching of the Gospel. [Deus Caritas Est, 22 & 25](#)

We need to build local communities of faith where our social teaching is central, not fringe; where social ministry is integral, not optional; where it is the work of every believer, not just the mission of a few committed people and committees. [Communities of Salt and Light, USCCB](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do we organize our parishes to give EVERY Catholic the opportunity to engage in the social mission? How do we get younger Catholics (i.e. Young Adults and young families) engaged in charitable ministries?
2. How do we make sure that our ministries of charity are Christ-centered and missionary focused? How are our charitable ministries transformational for both volunteers and clients?