

# **St. Matthew the Apostle Social Concerns Committee**

**St. Matthew the Apostle Parish**

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**[SocialConcerns@stmatthewsrandolph.org](mailto:SocialConcerns@stmatthewsrandolph.org)**

## **What is the objective of the Social Concerns Committee?**

The goal of the St. Matthew the Apostle Social Concerns Committee, as outlined in our mission statement, is to empower and facilitate the parish community to proclaim the Good News through practical works of justice, charity and peace by responding to the needs of God's people. In any parish it is incumbent upon the community to monitor and coordinate all activities that require its membership to give sacrificially of its time, talent and treasure. Lack of coordination can overburden membership and waste valuable resources if the community's Stewardship is directed to too many activities or activities not aligned to Catholic social teachings.

## **Who needs to submit a request?**

The role of the SCC is to empower, facilitate and monitor the results of all parish activities related to social service and/or outreach involvement. Therefore, each group or individual who wishes to conduct such activity that requires St. Matthew sponsorship including people resources, financial support or the use of St. Matthew's by name, must submit a request to the committee.

### **Exemptions:**

- Those activities surrounding the Religious Education program are exempt but the leadership of the Religious Education Program (the DRE and her Staff) will be responsible for keeping the SCC informed of Religious Educational activities to prevent oversaturation or duplication.

## **My/Our activity has been going on for years and we never needed this approval before, why now?**

The SCC has been charged with assessing the timing of all requests with respect to other activities planned. It is our responsibility to monitor the overall efforts of our parish community with sensitivity to our parishioners and their ability to support outreach needs. We are sensitive to environmental challenges with an increasing need for assistance, pressure on discretionary support and diminishing public support for social efforts all leading to donor fatigue. Our objective is to focus our efforts, minimize duplication of services while seeking to expand our outreach.

As we have grown as a parish community, you can be assured that the requests for supporting many activities has grown proportionally. As an established parish we are now called on to support Diocesan activities to a larger degree than in the past. We fully recognize the need to do God's work to help others but we also have a responsibility to our parish community to coordinate and provide responsible accountability on how our activities are benefiting those being served. That is why even established programs are requested to submit a request to the SCC.

### **How do I/We submit a request?**

A SCC request form is available from the parish office or on our parish website under the SCC banner. It is simple to fill out and once completed it can be submitted, via the office, to the committee for consideration. It is incumbent of each individual or group to allow at least one month for the review process to be completed. The submitting party will be notified by an SCC member once the request is acted upon and a decision reached by a majority vote of the SCC committee. If additional support is needed, the submitting party will be contacted and as needed the committee will supply feedback to that party on the committee's decision.

### **What type of information do I need to complete the request?**

Again the information is simple but the following information is needed:

- Who is making the request?
- What is needed? (Amount of money, people resources, other)
- What is the purpose of the request?
- When is it needed?
- Who is the contact person?
- Provide some background information on the project
- What is the expected outcome(s)
- How will results be measured?
- How long will the project last?
- Is there a contingency plan for this project without St. Matthew's support?

### **Are there other considerations important to the committee for any request?**

Yes. The committee will assess all activities within the parish to insure that there is not significant overlap and that our targets of local (defined as within the diocese), national and global are met. We will also assess each request to avoid duplication of activities between ministries and groups, the need for the request, the budget available, resource allocation and insure the request is in line with Catholic Social teachings. We will also place an emphasis on how this effort will be monitored and feedback to this projects success will be vital for future requests.

### **How do I know if my/our request fits into current Catholic Social Teachings?**

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of our modern society. Here are areas for consideration. Assess how your request fills one or several of these teachings.

#### **1. Human Dignity**

Human life is sacred and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.

## **2. Community and Family**

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community.

## **3. Rights and Responsibilities**

Human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency.

## **4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, Catholic teachings instruct us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

## **5. Dignity of the Worker**

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

## **6. Solidarity**

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world.

## **7. Care for God's Creation**

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan; it is a requirement of our faith.

**All requests should be made using the on-line form and using one of the 3 methods outlined below:**

- a. Sent to the Social Concerns Committee at [SocialConcerns@stmatthewsrandolph.org](mailto:SocialConcerns@stmatthewsrandolph.org)
- b. Faxing the completed form to 973-584-0499
- c. Dropping off the form at the church office Attn: Social Concerns Committee