



St. Matthew the Apostle Parish Social Concerns Committee (SCC)

The people of St Matthew’s embrace the concept of Christian Stewardship in recognizing God as the source of our blessings and give sacrificially of their time, talent and treasure. As a thriving parish community we are called to practice Christian Stewardship by reaching out to serve the larger human community. The goal of the Social Concerns Committee is to help direct and coordinate our Stewardship.

Sponsorship initiatives include:

- Emergency & Disaster Relief
- Hunger and Poverty Relief
- Personal Development & Well Being – health, safety, human rights, protection of disadvantaged
- Group spiritual & personal development

Information is available at:

St. Matthew the Apostle Parish

335 Dover Chester Road

Randolph, NJ 07869

973-584-1101 (Office) / 973-584-0499 (Fax)

www.StMatthewsRandolph.org/socialconcerns

Committee e-mail: SocialConcerns@stmatthewsrandolph.org

Our Mission Statement

“The Social Concerns Committee of St. Matthew the Apostle will empower and facilitate the parish community to proclaim the Good News through the practical works of justice, charity and peace by responding to the needs of God's people on a local, national and global level thereby authenticating our Gospel values.”

Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

The **Social Concerns Committee** of St. Matthew the Apostle parish has been established to provide a process to allow the parish community to coordinate programs and ministries that will serve local, national and global populations with needed services. The goal is to organize our efforts and resources in line with Catholic teachings. Therefore programs will be assessed on their response to social works of Justice, Charity and Peace.

All written requests for parish funding, resources (people) or endorsement (use of St. Matthew's parish name) will be submitted to the committee for formal review and approval. All requests must be submitted directly to the Committee through the Parish Office. Application forms are available in the office or on the parish web site.

Role of the Committee:

- Review and vote on all new sponsorship submissions; existing programs will be reviewed periodically
- Ensure that service activities included in other ministries, such as Religious Education, work within published guidelines, without need to actively request formal committee approval. This committee will however track such activities.
- Identify targeted mix of initiatives across sponsorship categories
- Prioritize allocation of limited financial resources
- Benchmark effectiveness of individual initiatives
- Establish a process to monitor and insure coordination of all parish programs and ministries

Guidelines for Proposals:

The intentions of all requests should be in line with our Mission Statement as well as the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Requests should also adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Non-Duplication** – Request should not be for something that is already being addressed by other ministries or groups.
- **Target** – What group or audience will be served?
- **Available Resources** – What is needed from St. Matthew's – i.e., money, staff/parishioners, time, facilities?
- **Validation Required**– How will this request be validated and documented?
- **Effectiveness Measurement** – How will the effect of the results of the request be measured?
- **Early termination consequences** – what if other funding or collaborator fall through? Will this project be able to continue?
- **Exposure or risk** – is this request something in which St. Matthew's SHOULD be involved?
- **Time of program / commitment** – What is the length of the commitment to this project/program

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 modern society. Our goal is to follow these teaching.

Human Dignity

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.