



Archdiocese of Indianapolis - Catholic Charities
Introduction to
Parish Social Ministry

II. How is PSM rooted in the Gospel, Sacraments and Social Mission?

Gospel: PSM reinforces the proclamation of the word by bringing Jesus' call to life. In the Gospels, Jesus calls on everyone to care for the poor, vulnerable, and suffering people and to work for justice and peace. PSM helps to bring parishioners to a deeper understanding of the world of God.

Sacrament: Through the sacramental life of the church, the faithful come into contact with God in a deeper way and commit to bringing forth the kingdom of God on earth. The sacramental life of the parish reinforces PSM by commissioning us to live the Gospel through baptism and confirmation, by sustaining us through the contract with God's healing love as experienced in the sacrament of reconciliation, and by uniting us to one another through the Eucharist. PSM reinforces the administration of sacraments by providing opportunities for parishioner to act on the mission with which we are charged with.

Social Mission: PSM helps the faithful to grow in love with God and neighbor by drawing them to the side of the most vulnerable and asking them to be the presence of God's love. Jesus encourages us to go beyond fulfilling the physical needs of the person to becoming a sign of Christ's love to the person. Through the Church's rich social doctrine, primarily through understanding and living the principals of Catholic Social Teaching, the church makes this call relevant in our day by evaluating social justice issues through Gospel principals.

(CCUSA - Catalysts & Collaborators in Social Ministry, 2008)