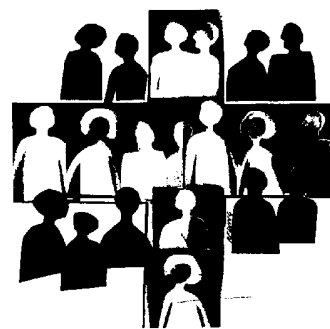


## Guidelines for Parish Social Justice Animators – Working with Your Parish

### Getting Started

- Gather others in the parish with interests in justice and peace issues and share your backgrounds, interests and ideas at an initial meeting
- Inform and consult with your Parish Priest and Parish Council
- Put a notice in the bulletin about your intentions/plans
- Check with the Executive Secretary of the Commission or the Commission website if you need help with resources on Catholic Social teaching and justice issues
- With your group, pray with the scriptures and reflect on Catholic social teaching as you look at issues and decide on actions.



### Choosing Issues to learn about/make others aware of/pursue action on

- What are the issue(s) people in your group are passionate about?
- Choose one to start with – it can be global, national or local – preferably one that affects your local community
- If it is a large complex issue, take one aspect of it to focus on: e.g., if your issue is Environment, you might look at loss of biodiversity or waste;
- Learn about your issue from guest speakers, online information, etc
- Decide what you want to do about your issue – and this action needs to be local; if your issue is waste you might focus on ensuring parish and parishioners understand and do recycling and composting - or creating an environmental prayer time or liturgy etc
- One way to think of actions is that they need to be SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely
- Actions with the best chance of succeeding build and sustain the energy and enthusiasm of the wider parish
- From time to time the Commission will send out information and ideas on issues and possible actions
- Using an expansion of See/Judge/Act works well: **See-Research** the issues/**Know** your Catholic teaching/**Reflect** on the issues in light of Catholic teaching to come to a **Judgment** about where you stand/**Imagine - Vision** different outcomes and take appropriate and realistic **Action/Evaluate** your results/**Pray** throughout

### Kinds of Social Action (some overlap)

- **Social and Environmental Service** – doing the things that need to be done immediately to provide for people’s (or earth’s) survival : e.g., foodbanks, refugee care, St Vincent de Paul, counselling, emergency housing, reforestation/native planting
- **Social Justice** – doing the things that need to be done to change the root causes of problems: e.g., submissions to local council and central government, writing to and meeting with politicians to advocate for policy change (e.g., GST, social housing), creating awareness/educating on issues and on Catholic social teaching, teaching skills like gardening