

St. Mary Community-Service Commission: Christian Service and Community Life

Revised on June 15, 2009

Organization: Coordinated by the Community / Service Director, St. Mary Parish reaches out to the wider community in charity, love, service, and justice. Our various parish service and social organizations work together to build up the parish community in love and service. The coordination of service activities is handled by the respective commission representatives in consultation with, and under the supervision of the Community / Service Director. Please consult the Pastoral Council Charter for more information on commission membership.



Members: Commission members are discerned each year by the participants in each ministry that comprises the Community-Service Commission, through a process that is conducted by the Community-Service Director. Liaisons are selected each year by the Community-Service Director. Each May, the members and liaisons are chosen for the coming year. All commission members and liaisons work closely under the leadership of the Community-Service Director. Just as the Pastoral Council serves in a consultative role to the Pastor, the members of the Community-Service Commission serve in a consultative role to the Community-Service Director.

Officers: Under the leadership of the Community-Service Director, the Community-Service Commission discerns a Pastoral Council representative, a commission chairperson, and a commission secretary. These commission officers assist the Community-Service Director in planning, leading, and keeping minutes for the commission meetings. The term for the Pastoral Council representative is for two years. The other officers serve for renewable one year terms. However, after any representative to the commission has served for two consecutive years, further discernment is required for each additional year on the commission. Care must be taken to avoid over-involvement and burn-out among parishioners who may be overextended with multiple ministries. Please consult the Pastoral Council Charter for more information about membership on parish commissions.

Meetings: The Community-Service Commission usually meets each month, except during the summer. These meetings promote communication and the coordination of all community-service programs and ministries. The Commission members also attend general Parish Leadership Meetings, as scheduled by the Pastoral Council throughout the year.

Action Plans: The annual action plans and yearly calendar of events are prepared by the commission each spring and summer. These annual strategic plans are then considered by the Pastoral Council for final approval, along with the annual strategic plans of all the other commissions, to establish a common purpose for the whole parish community.

Joint Activities: There are several special parish activities that are coordinated by the Community-Service Commission, which involve cooperation from the other parish Commissions:

- Appreciation Dinner: held each winter for all parish volunteers
- Ministry Fair: held every few years for all parish commissions and organizations
- Parish Picnic: celebrates our parish family spirit near the end of summer each year
- Donut Sundays: usually the first Sunday of each month during the school year
- Social Events: for families and married couples throughout the year
- Welcome Events: for new parishioners throughout the year