



DIOCESE OF LANSING M I C H I G A N

Responsibilities of Members of the Commission on Catholic Social Teaching Diocese of Lansing

Bishop Earl Boyea has established a Commission on Catholic Social Teaching (CCST). He is seeking individuals who are interested in serving on this Commission, with the inaugural meeting to be scheduled in August 2020. The CCST Mission and the Responsibilities of the members are described here.

Mission—Commission on Catholic Social Teaching:

The Commission on Catholic Social Teaching (CCST) exists to assist the Bishop in his ministry to catechize all the baptized in the Diocese of Lansing on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, advance the dignity of the human person, and to promote the common good of society.

Responsibilities of CCST Members:

Members of the CCST agree to participate actively in the functions of the Commission, in the scheduled meetings of the Commission, and in the work of the committees to which they are assigned outside of the scheduled Commission meetings. The functions of the Commission are the following:

1. Serve as counsel to the Bishop on matters of Catholic Social Teaching.
2. Help to catechize the faithful throughout the diocese that living out Catholic Social Teaching is constitutive to lived faith by virtue of our Baptism.
3. Help to catechize the faithful throughout the diocese to recognize Jesus Christ in vulnerable, oppressed, victimized and marginalized children, families and individuals, and to be for them the face, the hands and the feet of Jesus Christ.

4. Through group catechesis and formation, become well-formed in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, integrating respect for the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death into all of the principles, always with Scripture and Church Tradition as the foundation. The seven (7) Principles of Catholic Social Teaching are:
 1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person
 2. Solidarity
 3. Call to Family, Community and Participation
 4. Rights and Responsibilities
 5. Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers
 6. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
 7. Care of God's Creation
5. Become well-informed in matters of Catholic Social Teaching including seeking input from organizations and authors which/who are consistent with Church teaching, and engaging with those affected by laws, policies, actions, and utterances recognized to be contrary to Catholic Social Teaching.
6. Connect with and interconnect parishes and the Catholic faithful in parishes in their efforts to live out the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.
7. Provide a focus for parish and diocesan efforts to educate and inform the Catholic faithful and the public on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.
8. Highlighting for the Bishop and the curia issues/matters of Catholic Social Teaching needing attention in the diocese based on the impact of current and developing local, state, national, and international events and situations on the people of the diocese.

Commission Meetings:

The CCST will meet four (4) times each year, typically in the months of August, October, January and April. Committees of the CCST will schedule meetings as appropriate for the tasks assigned. Additionally, the Commission leadership may, from time-to-time, schedule a retreat and/or workshop in addition to regularly scheduled meetings, for the purpose of prayer, catechesis, and formation in Catholic Social Teaching.

Requirements:

A CCST member must be an adult member of a Catholic parish within the Diocese of Lansing. The pastor of the member's parish will provide a signed reference statement affirming the individual is a member of the parish and that the individual is practicing and living her/his Catholic faith including regular Mass attendance.

Letter of Interest:

An individual desiring to serve on the CCST will provide a letter of interest to their parish pastor, briefly explaining their interest in serving on the CCST.

Nomination and Appointment:

Parish pastors will submit nominations of their parishioners for the CCST to the vicar of their region, along with the reference statement described under 'Requirements'. The vicars will submit recommended nominees to the Chancellor of the Diocese, Mr. Michael Andrews. The Chancellor will interview individuals nominated by the vicars and make recommendations to the Bishop who appoints Commission members.

Term of Office:

The Bishop appoints CCST members for staggered three-year terms. No CCST member may serve more than two consecutive terms.

Due Dates:

Individuals interested in serving on the Commission should submit their letter of interest to their pastor by July 1, 2020. Pastors will submit their nominations (including letters of interest and their reference statement—form attached) to their vicars by August 15, 2020. Vicars will submit the names of the nominees, their letters of interest, and pastor references to the Chancellor by September 15, 2020. The Chancellor will schedule interviews with nominees as soon thereafter as is practical.

NOTE on Due Dates:

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, all of these dates are subject to change.