

Christian Service & Outreach

Vision: The Catholic Church, through the loving and faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit, shares the presence of Christ through acts of service.

Definition of Christian Service

Christian Services are the activities by which Catholics endeavor to live God's commandment to love thy neighbor. Through acts of corporal and spiritual mercy, they share the love and mercy of Christ with their neighbors. By aiding others with their spiritual and material necessities, Catholics grow in conformance to Christ and ultimately receive His Divine mercy.

Goal 1: Understand the needs of our brothers and sisters and provide prioritized coordinated comprehensive responses to meet these needs.

Goal 2: Create and implement a dynamic, interconnected and synergistic Catholic Charities network to align service endeavors of the laity, parishes, vicariates, regions, religious communities, chaplaincies, schools, and all other Catholic institutions and agencies, toward advancing Christian Service.

Goal 3: Advocate systemic change to address root causes of social problems.

Goal 4: Inspire all Catholics to discern their gifts and embrace Christian Service as a means to live God's commandment to love thy neighbor and as a precious faith formation opportunity for sharing and receiving Christ's love and mercy.

TO RESPOND TO THIS VISION AND MEET THESE GOALS

It is recommended Families and Individuals will:

1. Review the "Need List" and submit modification recommendations.
2. Engage in the execution of the tactical plans in their parishes and vicariates.

It is recommended that Parishes/Schools will:

1. Review the "Need List" and submit modification recommendations.
2. Create and maintain the list of services provided by each parish, school and Catholic community in support of the AOD identified needs.
3. Participate in the tactical plan creation and execution as required.

It is recommended the Region/Vicariate will:

1. Review the "Need List" and submit modification recommendations.
2. Create and maintain the list of services provided by the vicariate in support of the AOD identified needs.
3. Identify the top four needs for 2011 from the Regional Report.
4. Participate in the tactical plan creation and execution as required for these four needs.
5. Identify the top four needs for 2012 from the Regional Report.
6. Identify and isolate one priority area of need from the 16 identified by the regions (cross-referenced with the priorities of the Michigan Catholic Conference).
7. Participate in the tactical plan creation and execution as required for this need.

It is recommended the Archdiocese will:

1. Create and maintain a master "Need List" used to categorize the needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the AOD.

2. Create a web-enabled template/form by which the AOD constituents may recommend “Need List” modifications.
3. Process all “Need List” modification recommendations.
4. Create and maintain the master list of needs verses resources/programs/services (configurable by parish, vicariate, region and archdiocese). Example – Create a web-enabled template/form by which the AOD constituents register and maintain their list of resources/programs/services with which they service the needs of our brothers and sisters. This will enable a regular survey of how the AOD currently addresses each need.
5. Produce and publish regular Regional, Vicariate and Parish Reports from this master list to ensure accuracy & maintenance.
6. Create a tactical plan to ensure the best Catholic response to the each need for the top sixteen needs within the AOD (four needs in each of four regions) by facilitating a review of each of the top four regional needs with the appropriate Regional Moderator’s Council(s) and service providers of record (vicariates, parishes, institutions, agencies, etc).
7. Comprehensively analyze the root causes of the top need in the archdiocese.
8. Develop a tactical plan to advocate for the necessary systemic change for this top need. Examples of advocacy could be interaction with decision makers or policy makers or high profile individual and institutional involvement.
9. Develop & execute a “Communication Plan & Involvement Campaign” to inspire Catholics to discern their gifts and embrace Christian Service as an integral part of their faith.

It is recommended that the Archbishop will:

1. Use his teaching authority to restate the Church’s commitment to the poor and distressed.
2. Make Christian Service one of the top priorities of the Archdiocese.
3. Involve him self personally, or through appropriate representatives, in working with groups of all kinds planning strategies and working to serve our brothers and sisters.
4. Declare a year of reflection, calling on each parish to participate in activities to heighten awareness of our call to serve as Christ served.