

Advocacy Workshop: Part One Notes

Slide 1



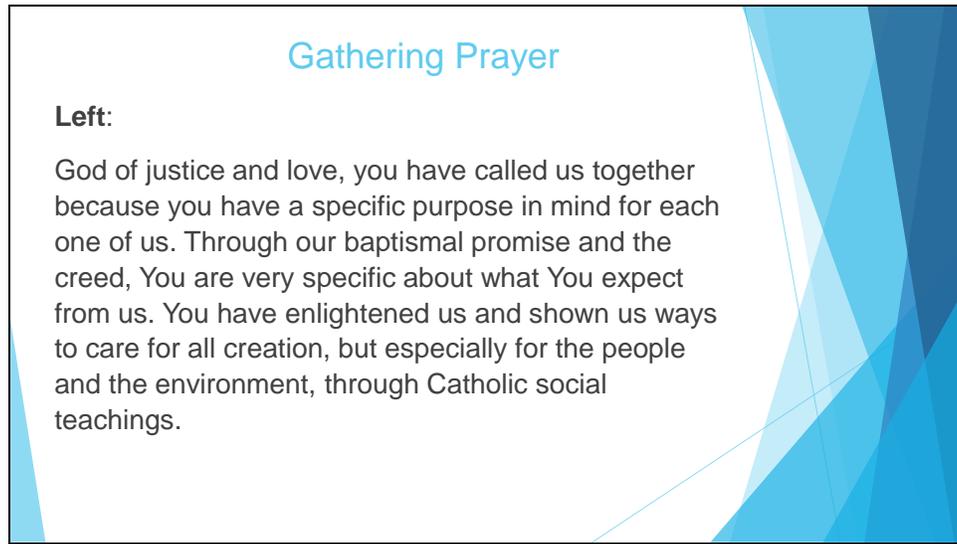
**Advocacy Workshop:
Part One**

Advocacy Working Group

GOAL: The Catholic Women's League of Canada addresses and supports Catholic social teaching through advocacy.

Strategy: Develop and Deliver Workshops at All Levels

Slide 2

The slide features a white background with a decorative blue geometric pattern on the right side. The title "Gathering Prayer" is centered at the top in a blue font. Below the title, the word "Left:" is written in bold black text, followed by a paragraph of prayer text.

Gathering Prayer

Left:

God of justice and love, you have called us together because you have a specific purpose in mind for each one of us. Through our baptismal promise and the creed, You are very specific about what You expect from us. You have enlightened us and shown us ways to care for all creation, but especially for the people and the environment, through Catholic social teachings.

READ:

We will pray our gathering prayer in choirs; one left, the second choir, right.

Let us begin with the sign of our faith. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Left:

God of justice and love, you have called us together because you have a specific purpose in mind for each one of us. Through our baptismal promise and the creed, You are very specific about what You expect from us. You have enlightened us and shown us ways to care for all creation, but especially for the people and the environment, through Catholic social teachings.

Slide 3

Right:

As members, You have called us to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through social justice, advocacy, ministry and service. You have gifted us with wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and awe of the Lord to right the many injustices in our world.

Left:

We each have within us the seeds for healing our broken society. The seeds are the desire to listen, to learn, to understand and to take action. The sun and the rain for these seeds are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Right:

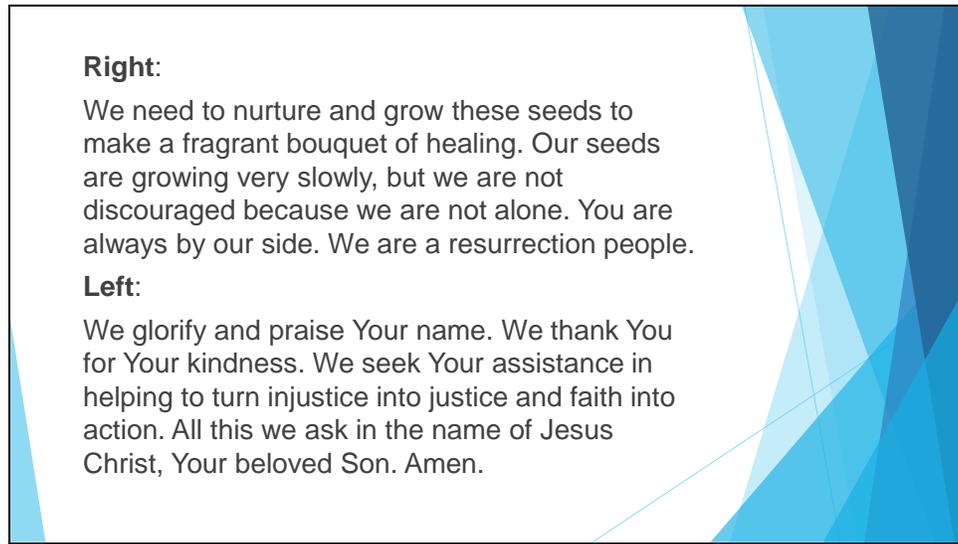
As members, You have called us to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through social justice, advocacy, ministry and service. You have gifted us with wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and awe of the Lord to right the many injustices in our world.

CLICK for Left

Left:

We each have within us the seeds for healing our broken society. The seeds are the desire to listen, to learn, to understand and to take action. The sun and the rain for these seeds are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Slide 4

The slide content is presented within a rectangular frame. The background of the frame is white, with a decorative blue geometric pattern on the right side consisting of overlapping triangles in various shades of blue. The text is arranged in two sections: a 'Right' section and a 'Left' section.

Right:
We need to nurture and grow these seeds to make a fragrant bouquet of healing. Our seeds are growing very slowly, but we are not discouraged because we are not alone. You are always by our side. We are a resurrection people.

Left:
We glorify and praise Your name. We thank You for Your kindness. We seek Your assistance in helping to turn injustice into justice and faith into action. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son. Amen.

Right:

We need to nurture and grow these seeds to make a fragrant bouquet of healing. Our seeds are growing very slowly, but we are not discouraged because we are not alone. You are always by our side. We are a resurrection people.

CLICK FOR LEFT

Left:

We glorify and praise Your name. We thank you for Your kindness. We seek Your assistance in helping to turn injustice into justice and faith into action. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son. Amen.

Slide 5



READ:

We will now watch a 30-second video clip. I would like you to reflect on the following question while you watch the video. We'll likely watch it more than once!

In what ways does this video speak to the League's call to advocate for those who have no voice in our communities (small and large)?

After watching the clip, repeat the question and invite discussion.

(2–3 minutes)

Slide 6

Why Do We Advocate?



Image Source: dreamstime.com/two-women-having-meeting-inside-glass-panel-office-public-domain-image-free-119666520

“But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.”
(Mt 6:33)

READ:

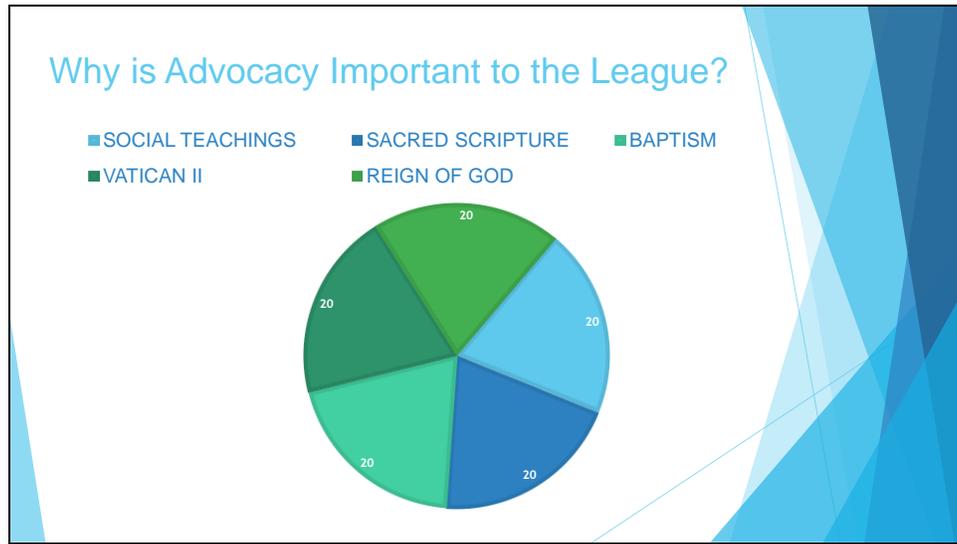
Why do we advocate? *Invite quick responses from the participants. Any answer is welcome.*

Part one of this workshop will answer this question from a faith perspective.

The main ideas include the following:

- Sacred scripture dates back to our roots in Judaism and the old testament. We will explore how fundamental advocacy is to our faith.
- Our long tradition of Catholic social teaching is based on sacred scriptures.
- Baptism—we will reinforce the reality that by virtue of this sacrament, Christ not only calls each of us to be priest, prophet and king but a disciple called by the church to work together to further the reign—the kingdom of God. “But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Mt 6:33).
- The call of the Spirit through Vatican Council II to “read the signs of the times” and be Christ for others in our world today.
- The call to further God’s kingdom here on earth and build the reign of God.

Slide 7



READ:

Why is advocacy so important to the League?

The main reasons why members advocate include:

- Catholic social teaching is a long tradition that is based on our sacred scriptures.
- Sacred scripture dates back to our roots in Judaism and the old testament. We will explore how fundamental collaboration is to our faith.
- Baptism reflects God’s call for each Catholic to be priest, prophet and king, as well as a disciple in the church inspired by the Spirit, to live this discipleship every day.
- Through the Second Vatican Council, we are called to “read the signs of the times” and be Christ for others in today’s world.
- The Reign of God: “But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Mt 6:33-34). “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Mt 6:10), All of these reasons for advocacy, come together in this line from the Our Father. We work together to further the reign, the kingdom of God.

Slide 8



For our discussions today, I remind you of the following guidelines:

- Confidentiality
- Respect

READ: For our discussions today, I remind you of the following guidelines:

- Confidentiality: To ensure comfort in sharing, we dedicate ourselves to the confidentiality of what is shared. Please do not presume that it is acceptable to tell a friend what was shared in your group. Please do not use a person's name if you share a personal story. Instead, to protect confidentiality, say something like "Someone I know..."
- Respect: Ensure everyone has a chance to speak—time is limited and we want everyone to have the opportunity to share their ideas.

Slide 9

Advocacy is Rooted in Scripture

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to
the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s
favour...”

(Isa 61:1-2)



Image source: pexels.com/photo/belief-bible-book-business-267559/



READ:

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour...” (Isa 61:1-2).

Allow a short period for silent reflection on the reading.

(2 – 3 minutes)

Read the passage a second time and then invite participants to share any thoughts. (2 – 3 minutes)

Slide 10

Our Advocacy is Rooted in Sacred Scripture
“... As you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me” (Mt 25:40).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMYBCy1FyUc>

READ:

Our Advocacy is Rooted in Sacred Scripture: “... As you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me” (Mt 25:40).

“The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: Stand in the gate of the Lord’s house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah, you that enter these gates to worship the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. Do not your trust in these deceptive words: ‘This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.’ For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act with one another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors for ever and ever. Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are safe!’—only to go on doing all these abominations? Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your sight? You know, I too am watching, says the Lord” (Jer 7:1-11).

This video clip will introduce you to the foundational nature of our sacred scripture and our call as disciples of Jesus, to advocate for others.

Ask the women to focus on these two questions as they view the clip:

- Identify one piece of information that was new to you.
- What did you hear that supports or explains “why” collaboration with government is important for League councils?

Click to begin the video clip: Scripture in the Life of the Church

Following the video, allow time for discussion

(8 minutes)

(3–5 minutes)

Source: [youtube.com/watch?v=aMYBCy1FyUc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMYBCy1FyUc)

Slide 11



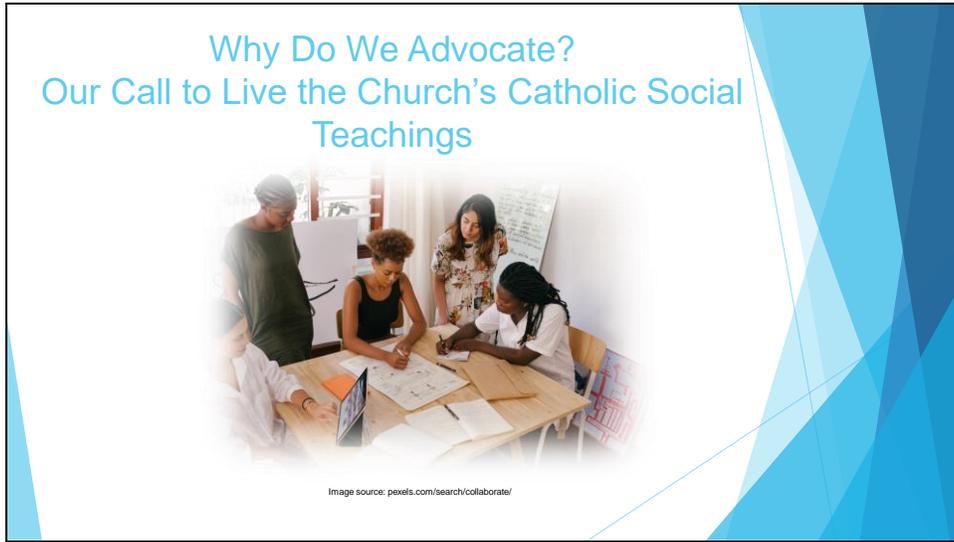
READ:

As I read this scripture quote, close your eyes and listen for the message of God's justice.

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am” (Isa 58: 6-9).

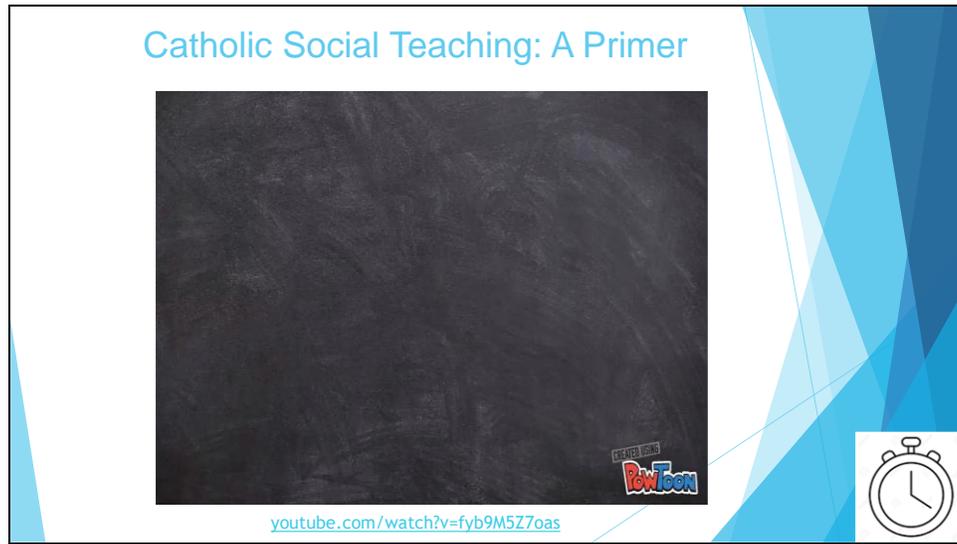
Pope Francis' message for the celebration of the 54th World Day of Peace is another example of many that highlight the connection between our sacred texts and God's call for justice in all our relationships. “In the prophetic tradition, the biblical understanding of justice found its highest expression in the way a community treats its weakest members. Amos (*cf.* 2:6-8; 8) and Isaiah (*cf.* 58), in particular, insistently demand justice for the poor, who, in their vulnerability and powerlessness, cry out and are heard by God, who watches over them (*cf.* *Ps* 34:7; 113:7-8).”

Slide 12



READ: Why Do We Advocate? Our Call to Live the Church's Catholic Social Teachings

Slide 13



READ:

This short video will give you a brief history of Catholic social teaching, beginning with St. Augustine up to recent popes who have repeatedly written about its priority in our lives as baptized Catholics. I invite you to write down the popes mentioned and the themes of Catholic social teaching as you watch the film.

Click on the image to display the short video clip.

(3½ minutes)

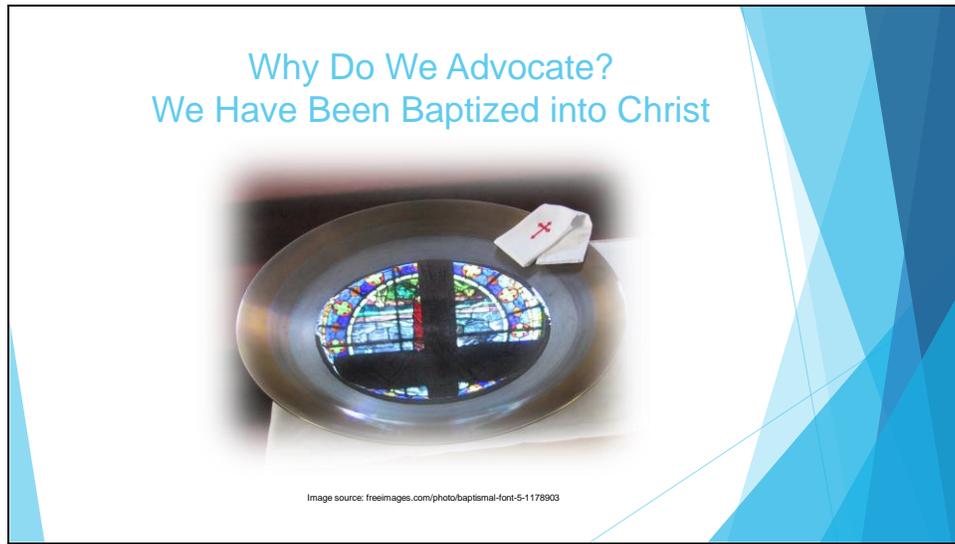
After watching the video ask the women to identify a council activity that supports one or more of the Catholic social teachings.

(3 minutes)

Feel free to show the video a second time to help with the discussion.

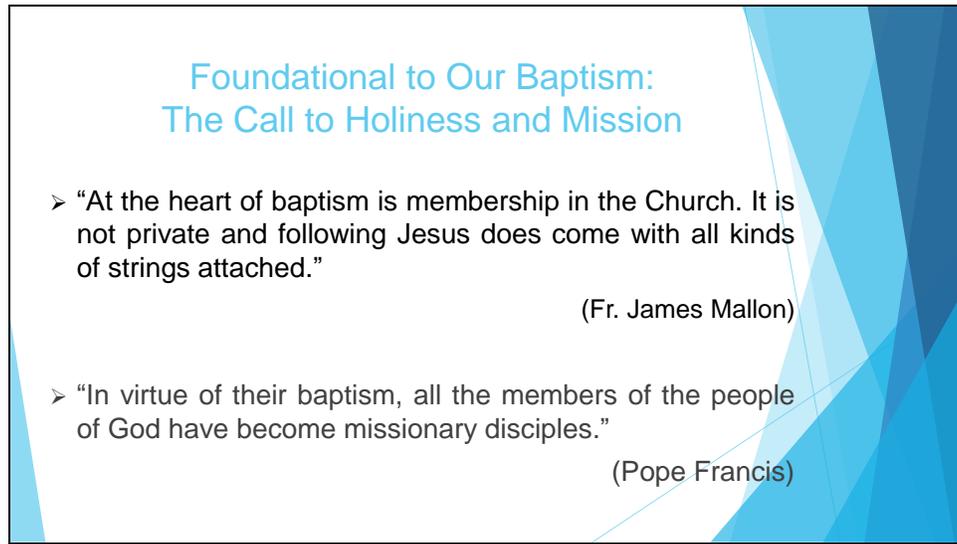
Link: [youtube.com/watch?v=fyb9M5Z7oas](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyb9M5Z7oas)

Slide 14



READ: Why Do We Advocate? We Have Been Baptized into Christ

Slide 15



**Foundational to Our Baptism:
The Call to Holiness and Mission**

- “At the heart of baptism is membership in the Church. It is not private and following Jesus does come with all kinds of strings attached.”
(Fr. James Mallon)
- “In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the people of God have become missionary disciples.”
(Pope Francis)

READ: Social justice is foundational to our baptism—it is one of the pillars of the church and our faith. In the words of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit... and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. ...We become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission” (1213).

As Fr. James Malon wrote in his book, *Divine Renovation: From a Maintenance to a Missional Parish*, “The idea that the call to holiness and mission is rooted not in ordination or in religious profession but in baptism had been so forgotten that it was revolutionary. We are called to holiness because we are baptized. We are called to mission, to evangelize, to share the Good News because we are baptized.”

It is this baptism that Pope Francis has explained that allows us to walk together, “as befits [our] common baptism as members of the People of God in shaping the future Church... Walking together is a way for lay people to further their baptismal mission through joining the ordained in the discernment gifted by the Spirit to all the baptized” writes Moira McQueen in her book, *Walking Together: A Primer on the New Synodality*.

Slide 16



READ:

Moirra McQueen further states that “A major thrust of the Second Vatican Council is that the *whole* People of God is now the emphasis: a communion, a joint membership of every individual by virtue of the sacrament of baptism.

This vision of walking together – synodality – “reflects the spirit and intent of the Second Vatican Council... which... emphasized our common baptism as the essential qualification for membership in the Body of Christ, in which each one of us has a specific vocation and purpose. This radical equality conferred by baptism needs to be recalled and revitalized in every aspect of Church life until it is more adequately realized by all, especially among the laity” (*ibid*).

Slide 17

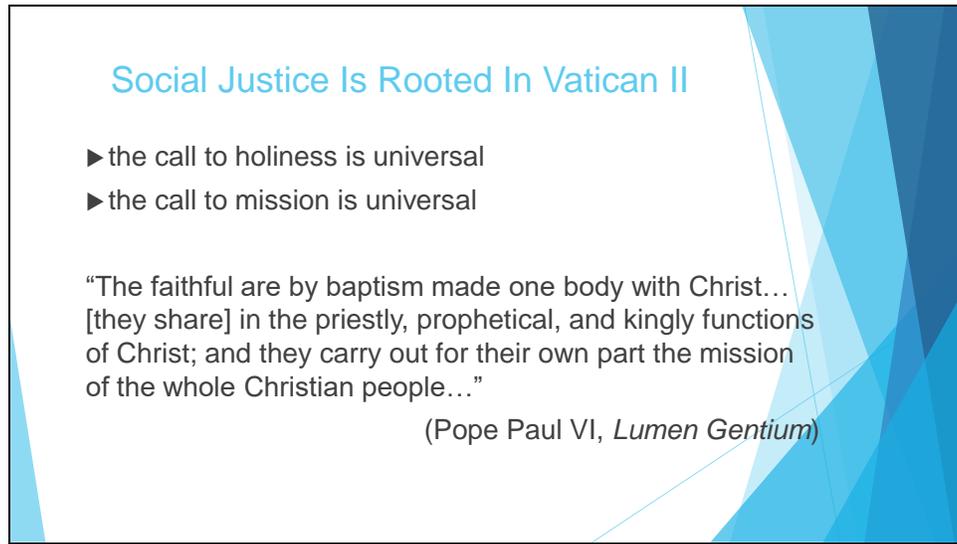


READ:

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Invite discussion around this quote. How might this “walking together” look in my life? In the life of my parish council? (3 minutes)

Slide 18



Social Justice Is Rooted In Vatican II

- ▶ the call to holiness is universal
- ▶ the call to mission is universal

“The faithful are by baptism made one body with Christ... [they share] in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ; and they carry out for their own part the mission of the whole Christian people...”

(Pope Paul VI, *Lumen Gentium*)

READ:

The central theological insights of all 16 Vatican II documents can be summed up in the following phrases: the universal call to holiness and the universal call to mission. Building on these two insights, we read in the Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium* (Light of the Nations), that, “The faithful are by baptism made one body with Christ... [they share] in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ; and they carry out for their own part the mission of the whole Christian people...” “What an inspiring, moving and challenging call for us to be Christ in our world and to be Christ for others. This is the faith to which we are called to live!

In one of Pope Paul VI’s decrees, *The Apostolate of the Laity (Apostolicam Actuositatem)*, he begins by stating that “lay people are called to their vocation through Baptism. Their apostolate is directed to the goal of the church itself, which is to spread the kingdom of Christ for the reign of God, to enable all people to share in redemption, and to enter into relationship with Christ. The Christian vocation, by its very nature, is also a vocation to apostolate, to which everyone is called” (Margaret Lavin, *Vatican II: Fifty Years of Evolution and Revolution in the Catholic Church*).

“We are part of an incredible moment in the church. A new breed of lay Catholics, eager, passionate, and committed to the fullness of their baptismal call, are presenting themselves for service to the church” (*ibid*).

Slide 19

Vatican II: *Gaudium et Spes*
Joy & Hope

- “The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts” (*Gaudium et Spes*).
- “...Let it be recognized that all the faithful, whether clerics and laity, possess a lawful freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought and of expressing their mind with humility and fortitude in those matters on which they enjoy competence” (*ibid*).



READ:

This document was the last and longest published document from the council and is the first constitution published by an ecumenical council to address the entire world. *Gaudium et Spes* (Joy and Hope) clarified and reoriented the role of the church’s mission to people outside of the Catholic faith. It was the first time that the church took explicit responsibility for its role in the larger world.

One of the shining, prophetic calls of this wonderful document was to “Read the signs of the times...” In the words of the late Karl Barth, one of the most influential theologians of the 20th century. “Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both.”

Click once to reveal each of the two quotes:

- “The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts” (*Gaudium et Spes*).
- “...Let it be recognized that all the faithful, whether clerics and laity, possess a lawful freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought and of expressing their mind with humility and fortitude in those matters on which they enjoy competence” (*ibid*).

Have a brief discussion and encourage participants to focus on one word, phrase or sentence that strikes or touches them. Share what that word(s) might be and explain. (3 - 5 minutes)

Slide 20



READ:

Why do we advocate? “But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Mt 6:33).

“Entering God’s kingdom is a metaphor for doing God’s will, and God’s will as revealed through Jesus is that people should take care of one another” (Joseph Martos, *Deconstructing Sacramental Theology and Reconstructing Catholic Ritual*).

Religious rituals versus justice in the land is a theme that runs through the old testament (e.g., 1 Samuel 15:22, Isaiah 1:11-17, Jeremiah 6:20, Proverbs 21:3) and into the new testament. When a religious scribe responds to Jesus that loving God and one’s neighbour “is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices,” Jesus replies, “You are not far from the kingdom of God” (Mk 12:33-34).

Slide 21

Seek First the Reign of God

“When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour’” (Lk 4:16-19).

3 – 5 minutes



READ:

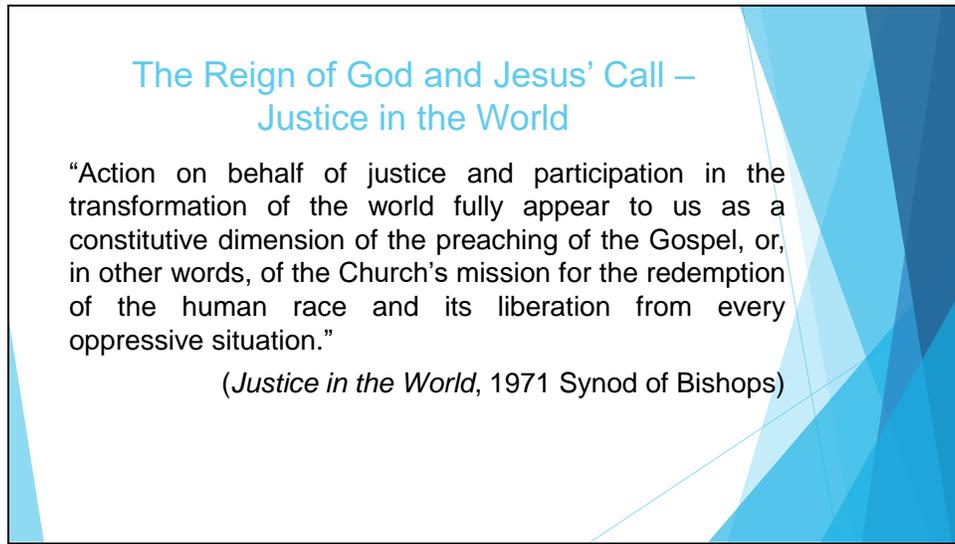
“When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour’” (Luke 4:16-19).

Michael N. Okińczyc-Cruz, Executive Director of Coalition for Spiritual and Public Leadership notes, “Jesus witnessed in these and countless others, a deep and divine yearning for dignity, respect, and hope. He understood their yearning for water, bread, shelter, land, safety, and justice. It moved him deeply, because liberation from the yoke of oppression is always to be at the center of God’s reign.”

Lead a group discussion on this quote, using these suggested questions: (3 – 5 minutes)

- Can you describe an action you have taken to answer the call of Jesus in this passage to further the reign of God—to bring about justice here on earth?
- Can you share an activity/project your parish council has taken to address one of these calls from Jesus in the passage?

Slide 22



The Reign of God and Jesus' Call –
Justice in the World

“Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or, in other words, of the Church’s mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation.”

(*Justice in the World*, 1971 Synod of Bishops)

READ: The 1971 Synod of Bishops’s document, *Justice in the World*, declared, “Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or, in other words, of the Church’s mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation.”

It would not be inaccurate to say that we pray a prayer like this almost every day—often more than once a day. Yet, we don’t usually make a connection between this prayer and the relationship between the sacred scriptures, Catholic social teachings, the baptismal call to be priest, prophet and king and Vatican II’s key teachings. What, you may ask, brings all of this together with the reign of God and Jesus’ call to build this reign?

Why the words of the Our Father: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on **earth** as it is in heaven. Think about it! Let’s live it!

Slide 23

What is Truth?

- Universal truth versus personal/private truth?
- Truth found in the scriptures versus society?
- The truth of tradition in our faith?

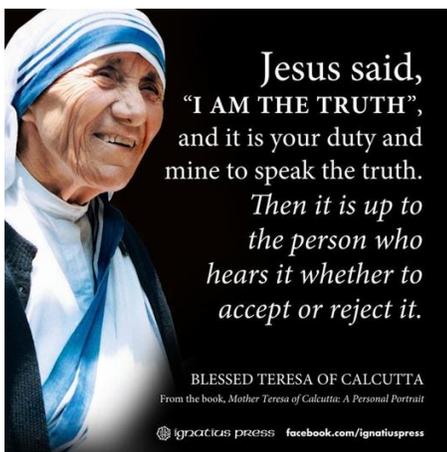


Image source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fr_Plettshelm_Cherin_de_croix_station_1_right.jpg

READ: What is truth? Why are we talking about truth here? Because our advocacy efforts must be based on truth. When we act on our conscience, it must be an informed action.

If we are trying to set the captives free, the truth will set us free.

Slide 24



Jesus said,
“I AM THE TRUTH”,
and it is your duty and
mine to speak the truth.
*Then it is up to
the person who
hears it whether to
accept or reject it.*

BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA
From the book, *Mother Teresa of Calcutta: A Personal Portrait*

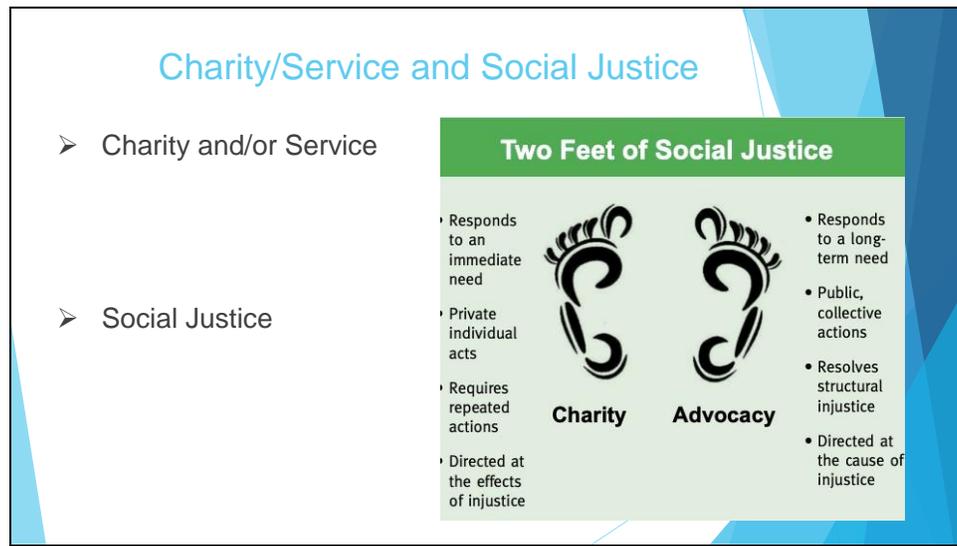
ignatius press facebook.com/ignatiuspress

Image source: pinterest.ca/pin/526217537684160456/

READ: “Then Jesus said, ... ‘and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free’” (Jn 8:31-32).

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth” (Jn 1:14).

Slide 25



READ: From the image above, we can see that charity and/or service may:

- respond to an immediate need
- include private or individual acts
- require repeated actions
- be directed at the effects of injustice, NOT the cause of the injustice

Examples of charity and/or service include volunteering at a friendship inn or a CWL clothing depot or creating Christmas hampers.

Social justice:

- responds to a long-term need
- is often a public and collective or group action
- works to resolve or change structural injustices
- is directed at the cause of the injustice

Examples of social justice include actions such as removing the root causes of injustice and improving unjust structures—for example, national resolutions.

Slide 26

Charity	Justice
Charity = social service. Charity provides direct services like food, clothing, shelter.	Justice = social change. Justice promotes social change in institutions or political structures.
Charity responds to immediate needs.	Justice responds to long-term needs.
Charity is directed at the effects of injustice, its symptoms. Charity addresses problems that already exist. Otherwise put: LOVE MOPS UP.	Justice is directed at the root causes of social problems. Justice addresses the underlying structures or causes of these problems. Otherwise put: JUSTICE TRIES TO MAKE SURE THE MESS ISNT MADE TO BEGIN WITH.
Charity is private, individual acts.	Justice is public, collective actions.
Examples of charity: homeless shelters, food shelves, clothing drives, emergency services.	Examples of justice: legislative advocacy, changing policies and practices, political action.

(Source: Office for Social Justice, Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis)



READ:

This chart is included in the handouts that accompany this workshop.

Read through this chart, then brainstorm together specific examples or activities of charity as distinct from justice. **(3 minutes)**

Charity = social service

- provides direct services like food, clothing and shelter
- responds to immediate needs
- is directed at the effects of injustice and its symptoms. Charity addresses problems that already exist. Otherwise put, love mops up.
- is a private, individual act

Examples of charity include homeless shelters, food shelves, clothing drives and emergency services.

Justice = social change

- promotes social change in institutions or political structures
- responds to long-term needs
- is directed at the root causes of social problems. Justice addresses the underlying structures or causes of these problems. Otherwise put: Justice tries to ensure the mess isn't made to begin with.
- is a public, collective action

Examples of justice include legislative advocacy, changing policies and practices and political action.

Slide 27



READ: We are called to advocate, and this call to action is rooted in our sacred scriptures, baptism and the call from the church through the Second Vatican Council documents and our growing tradition and writings on Catholic social teaching. Advocacy is like the whole pie.

Government collaboration is a subset of advocacy. In other words, any collaboration with any level of government is an example of advocacy. Our work on national resolutions is, by its very nature, advocacy.

Slide 28



READ: League advocacy reflects our baptismal call to use our voices to speak for the poor and marginalized. It adheres to the seven principles of Catholic social teaching, such as the common good and care for the environment. It includes the education and mobilization of members so we can be informed about issues, take action and become involved in developing and promoting solutions for causes we care about. It calls us to identify and be part of the changes that address symptoms and the underlying causes of injustice.

League collaboration can help achieve goals when two or more members work together in faith to accomplish a common goal or create something for the common good. As we work together through collaboration, we become more successful by creating and engaging in ongoing partnerships with faith organizations and various levels of government. These alliances are built on respectful dialogue, constructive feedback and cooperation as we seek to build God's reign on earth, working toward a more just reality for all God's creatures.

Slide 29

Advocating for Creation

Willow Park volunteers in cooperation with Public Works dug holes and planted 46 trees in the Willow Park Natural area north of Hwy628 on Oct. 1. The trees were donated by local residents Gene and Elaine Dextrase. Residents were invited to bring their children and grandchildren to help plant and claim a tree that was then tagged with their name on it. The initiative was run in the hopes the children will care for their tree and grow with it in years to come. "Thank to everyone who helped make this project a huge success," local resident Sharon Zunti said.



The 2018-2021 national theme, *Care for Our Common Home*, inspired three members of Holy Trinity Parish Council (Spruce Grove) to begin a dialogue with the Town of Stony Plain's public works department to plant trees in the Willow Park Natural Area.

This simple act of speaking for creation, resulted in the planting of 100 trees over a two-year period.

Slide 30



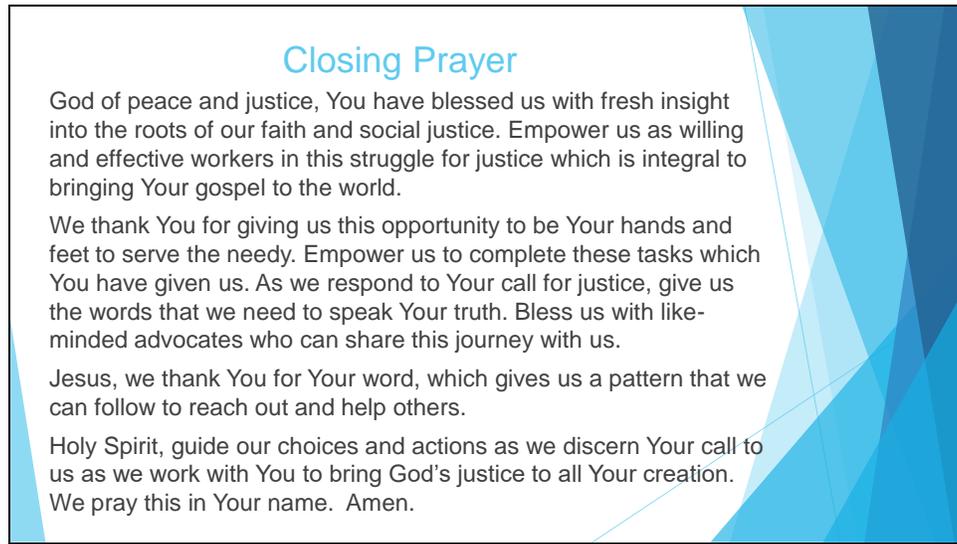
READ:

Let's brainstorm some simple, quick, personal issues or concerns on which we can advocate in our:

- family
- church
- activity clubs to which I belong
- advocating for the role of women in the church
- municipal/local issues

(3–5 minutes)

Slide 31



Closing Prayer

God of peace and justice, You have blessed us with fresh insight into the roots of our faith and social justice. Empower us as willing and effective workers in this struggle for justice which is integral to bringing Your gospel to the world.

We thank You for giving us this opportunity to be Your hands and feet to serve the needy. Empower us to complete these tasks which You have given us. As we respond to Your call for justice, give us the words that we need to speak Your truth. Bless us with like-minded advocates who can share this journey with us.

Jesus, we thank You for Your word, which gives us a pattern that we can follow to reach out and help others.

Holy Spirit, guide our choices and actions as we discern Your call to us as we work with You to bring God's justice to all Your creation. We pray this in Your name. Amen.

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Advocacy Workshop

Part One

This three-part workshop is designed for delivery at the parish council level by anyone with basic computer skills. This document is intended to accompany the three PowerPoint presentations on advocacy. Flexibility is built into the PowerPoints so that they can be presented individually over the council's chosen timeframe or for the presentation of all parts as a one-day retreat or full-day workshop.

One of the resources highly recommended to accompany this workshop and further develop advocacy skills is the "Advocacy Toolkit: Helping Ordinary People Make a Difference," published by *Citizens for Public Justice* (CPJ). This toolkit includes detailed examples of how members can advocate, from letter writing to meeting with government representatives and tips on using media to succeed in advocating. Find the toolkit at cpj.ca under "Resources." Copies can be ordered directly from CPJ for \$15.00 (July 2022 price).

Why is advocacy so important to the League?

The main reasons why members advocate include the following:

- The long tradition of Catholic social teaching (CST) is based on sacred scriptures.
- Sacred scripture dates back to Catholicism's roots in Judaism and the Old Testament. We will explore how fundamental collaboration is to our faith.
- By virtue of baptism, Christ not only calls each Catholic to be priest, prophet and king but a disciple called by the church through the call of the Spirit to live this baptismal call every day.
- It reflects the baptismal call to be a voice for the poor and marginalized.
- Through the Second Vatican Council, Catholics are called to "read the signs of the times" and be Christ for others in today's world.
- The Reign of God: "But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Mt 6:33). "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6:10). All of these reasons for advocacy come together in this line from The Lord's Prayer. Catholics work together to further the reign—the kingdom of God.
- League advocacy adheres to the CST principles, such as the key principle of Care for God's creation or Life and Dignity of the Human Person.
- League advocacy has always included the education and mobilization of members.
- To inform members about issues and causes they care about, so they can take action and become involved in developing and promoting solutions.

Slide - *Seek First the Reign of God questions:*

- Can you describe an action you have personally taken to answer the call of Jesus in this passage to further the reign of God to bring about justice here on earth?
- Can you share an activity/project that your parish council has taken to address one of these calls from Jesus in the passage?

1. Distinctions between charity and justice

Charity	Justice
Charity = social service. Charity provides direct services like food, clothing, shelter.	Justice = social change. Justice promotes social change in institutions or political structures.
Charity responds to immediate needs.	Justice responds to long-term needs.
Charity is directed at the effects of injustice, its symptoms. Charity addresses problems that already exist. Otherwise put: LOVE MOPS UP.	Justice is directed at the root causes of social problems. Justice addresses the underlying structures or causes of these problems. Otherwise put: JUSTICE TRIES TO MAKE SURE THE MESS ISN'T MADE TO BEGIN WITH.
Charity is private, individual acts.	Justice is public, collective actions.
Examples of charity: homeless shelters, food shelves, clothing drives, emergency services.	Examples of justice: legislative advocacy, changing policies and practices, political action.

2. Distinctions between advocacy and collaboration

- League advocacy reflects Catholics' baptismal call to use their voices to speak for the poor and marginalized. It adheres to the seven principles of CST, such as the common good and care for the environment. It includes the education and mobilization of members so they can be informed about issues, take action and become involved in developing and promoting solutions for causes about which they care. It calls members to identify and be part of the changes that address symptoms and the underlying causes of injustice.
- Collaboration can help achieve goals when two or more members work together in faith to accomplish a common goal or create something for the common good. As members work together through collaboration, they become more successful by developing and engaging in ongoing partnerships with faith organizations and various levels of government. These alliances are built on respectful dialogue, constructive feedback and cooperation as members seek to build God's reign on earth, working toward a more just reality for all God's creatures.