

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) describes this principle:

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social.

How we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

More on Call to Family, Community, and Participation: <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/call-to-family-community-and-participation>

Other local responses are on the back page.

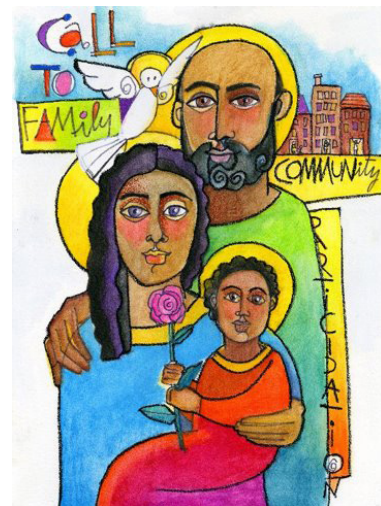
“Local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land. . . .

Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds.”

(Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home [Laudato Si']*, nos. 179, 219)

Special Message from US Bishops

As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) gathered for their Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore, the bishops issued a Special Message addressing their concern for the evolving situation impacting immigrants in the United States. The opening paragraph states:



As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care. We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

The entire message can be found at: <https://www.usccb.org/news/2025/us-bishops-issue-special-message-immigration-plenary-assembly-baltimore>

What can we do?

Help Us Build Communities in God's Vision of Justice

Holy Spirit,
We praise and thank you!
You anoint us to
bring glad tidings to the poor
proclaim liberty to captives
recover sight for the blind
free the oppressed
and build communities in keeping
with God's vision of justice.
Show us how to be
light of the world
salt of the earth
seeds that sprout love
and heaven that infuses humanity
with the desire to promote
human dignity and solidarity.
Help us to listen so that
those in poverty can lead our efforts to
proclaim a more hopeful vision
liberate captives from injustice
heal the blindness of the powerful
free us all from self-centeredness
and build community to overcome poverty.
Amen.



Secretariat of
Justice and Peace

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This prayer can be said as part of your daily prayer practice, with your family perhaps at meal time, or with any group you meet with during December.

Angel Tree Volunteers

St. Mary's receives a list of parishioners, families, and organizations from the community that need our support. Name tags are hung on the Angel Tree during the Advent Season, and parishioners can choose a tag and bring back a gift to the church.

Volunteers are also needed to sort the gifts so they can be delivered.

Contact Jasmine Eisenbarth
jmeisenbarth@gmail.com

Angel Tree set up:
Nov. 29, 2025

Gifts due back
Dec. 22, 2025

Discussion Guide

A Discussion Guide is available from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services. It Includes:

- Opening Prayer
- YouTube Video
- Scripture Passage for Reflection
- Sharing on Scripture
- Passages from Catholic Tradition for Reflection
- Discussion of Passages
- Call to Action
- Sending Forth

This and other resources can be found at:

crs.org/CST-101 or usccb.org/cst

Video on Family, Community, and Participation

A video from the USCCB and CRF on this topic can be found on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/giQgWakrgQs?si=9P0cU4lab9NHkbwT>

November in Review

Preferential Option for the Poor

The Social Action Commission worked with the **Pella Food Shelf** to fill their Thanksgiving boxes again this year! St. Mary Church donated over **400** 12-ounce cans of cranberry sauce for the boxes.

Meals for the Heartland Event

During our Meals for the Heartland packaging event, around 70 parishioners worked together to package 20,000 meals, some of which stayed in our community to support those with food insecurity.

