

Social Action Commission Focus for the Month

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

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

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.

“The first and fundamental structure for a ‘human ecology’ is the family . . . founded on marriage, in which the mutual gift of self as husband and wife creates an environment in which children can be born and develop their potentialities, become aware of their dignity and prepare to face their unique and individual destiny.” (St. John Paul II, *On the Hundredth Year [Centesimus Annus]*, no. 39)

For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ* and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them:

Romans 12:4-6

“The family is thus an agent of pastoral activity through its explicit proclamation of the Gospel and its legacy of varied forms of witness, namely solidarity with the poor, openness to a diversity of people, the protection of creation, moral and material solidarity with other families, including those most in need, commitment to the promotion of the common good and the transformation of unjust social structures, beginning in the territory in which the family lives, through the practice of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.” (Pope Francis, *The Joy of love [Amoris Laetitia]*, no. 290, quoting the Final Report of the Synod of Bishops, 10/24/15)



“People in every nation enhance the social dimension of their lives by acting as committed and responsible citizens, not as a mob swayed by the powers that be. Let us not forget that ‘responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.’” (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel [Evangelii Gaudium]*, no. 220, quoting United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, Nov. 2007, no. 13)

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.

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 leaven 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.



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

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 May.

St. Mary's Circles Mission Statement

The mission statement of "St. Mary's Circles is: "The Church Family invites all parish members into organized groups to compliment the established commissions of the parish council to serve, share our gifts and grow as a community of God."

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Discussion Guide

from RENEW International

Many Voices, One Spirit - Downloadable PDF Regular price \$0.00 USD

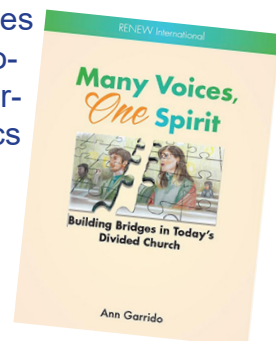
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Polarization in religious and political life makes progress in addressing the real needs of people difficult if not impossible. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked Catholics to commit ourselves to healing the divide by practicing a different approach to discussing controversial topics, especially with those with whom we may disagree—an approach grounded in concern for the common good.

Many Voices, One Spirit, in six faith-sharing sessions, offers concrete tools and action steps that can help us achieve healthy dialogue in our communities.

Thanks to funding from the Catholic Communication Campaign of the USCCB, this is a FREE resource offered by RENEW International.



Video on Family, Community, and Participation

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

<https://youtu.be/9mGxEAtVGcU?si=OE0UxzBA5sUJSZmF>

St. Mary's Circle Groups

Each member of St. Mary's is invited to participate in a Circles group, approximately 55 families in each Circle. During the year each group will be asked to help with different events in the parish such as helping to serve at a parish reception. Because there are five Circles, your Circle may only be called upon a couple of times a year. Your participation in the event is voluntary.

God calls us into community as the Family of God. The Circles concept gives parishioners the opportunity to work together and get to know each other at a different level deepening our relationship with each other.