



**Archdiocese of Indianapolis - Catholic Charities
Introduction to
Parish Social Ministry**

V. The Need for BOTH Direct Service and Social Justice!

“Catholic teaching calls us to serve those in need and to change the structures that deny people their dignity and rights as children of God. Service and action, charity and justice are complementary components of parish social ministry. Neither alone is sufficient; both are essential signs of the gospel at work. A parish serious about social ministry will offer opportunities to serve those in need and to advocate for justice and peace. These are not competing priorities, but two dimensions of the same fundamental mission to protect the life and dignity of the human person.”

(Communities of Salt and Light – USCCB)

In the ministry of loving our neighbors, the need for BOTH Direct Service and Social Justice is essential. While Direct Service addressed the immediate needs of the vulnerable, Social Justice transforms structures in order to end the root causes of their suffering.

We are called to feed the hungry AND we are called to fight for an end to hunger.