



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

I. When putting together a Parish Social Ministry Team, what should we be looking for?

It is important to remember that no one person possesses all the necessary gifts for an effective PSM Team, but the body as a whole is strengthened by each person's skills.

"Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body,' it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body,' it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended."

(1 Corinthians 12:14-18)

Parish Social Ministry Team members should; ()**

- Decide on a Model that fits your parish best.
- Put together a good team! DO NOT go it alone.
- Stay Connected! To the Pastor, Parish Staff and Parish Council.
- During the formation stage of the PSM Team, make sure you create a mission statement/ objectives/ action plans and goals.
- Be interested in the needs of others
- Have a sense of vision
- Recognize the importance of being a servant to the community
- Be willing to learn and live out the principals of Catholic Social Teaching
- Have an active prayer and faith life, which includes faithfully attending Sunday Mass
- Being open to listen to the concerns of parishioners
- Have a desire to foster the gifts of others
- Foster an openness and appreciation for diversity
- Show care and compassion for others
- Demonstrate a willingness to work collaboratively towards a consensus and the common good
- Have a positive outlook with a sense of humor
- Have time available to attend meetings and team activities
- Stay informed and connected with the Archdiocesan Social Concerns – Catholic Charities office.