

Mission

Parishes are called to be communities of solidarity. Catholic social teaching more than anything else insists that we are one family; it calls us to overcome barrier of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, economic status, and nationality. We are one in Christ Jesus (cf. Gal 3:28)—beyond our differences and boundaries.

Parishes need to be bridge-builders, reminding us that we are part of a Universal Church with ties of faith and humanity to sisters and brothers all over the world. Programs of parish twinning, support for Catholic Relief Services, mission efforts, migration and refugee activities, and other global ministries are signs of solidarity in a shrinking and suffering world. Advocacy on human rights, development and peace through legislative networks, and other efforts are also signs of a faith without boundaries and a parish serious about its social responsibilities. A key test of a parish's "Catholicity" is its willingness to go beyond its boundaries to serve those in need and work for global justice and peace. Working with others for common goals across religious, racial, ethnic, and other lines is another sign of solidarity in action.

Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish

The Church's teaching on international justice and peace is not simply a mandate for a few large agencies, but a challenge for every believer and every Catholic community of faith. The demands of solidarity require not another program, but greater awareness and integration into the ongoing life of the parish. The Church's universal character can be better reflected in how every parish prays, educates, serves, and acts. A parish reaching beyond its own members and beyond national boundaries is a truly "catholic" parish. An important role for the parish is to challenge and encourage every believer to greater global solidarity

Called to Global Solidarity: International Challenges for U.S. Parishes

The mission is facilitate and enhance the spiritual growth of the people of St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church and St. Genevieve Parish through the Covenant Relationship which awakens us all to a deeper understanding of the issues of social justice, human dignity, cultural values and the challenges of relationship across cultural divides and geographical distance.

Goal

The goal is solidarity—a joining of the people through the Holy Spirit into a relationship based on advocacy, universality, mutuality, spirituality, intimacy and dignity.

To accomplish the goal we will:

- 1. Discover ways to incorporate Haitian culture and spirituality into our own daily prayer life and Eucharistic celebration.**
- 2. Act as advocates for all people of Haiti by supporting and working for justice issues that have a direct impact upon the quality of life for the poor.**
- 3. Give and share our material and spiritual wealth in response to the needs and desires expressed by the people of St. Genevieve Parish.**
- 4. Send a parish team to Haiti at least once a year. Participants will experience an immersion in Haitian culture and visit Genevieve Parish.**
- 5. Create avenues for ministries and individuals in both parishes to share their time and talent with one another.**
- 6. Work with Haitian Ministries for the Diocese of Norwich on collaborative projects and programs.**