

Archdiocese of Newark



# 7 Habits of Highly Effective Social Concerns Committees



- Based on an article by Joe Sullivan from Salt and Earth magazine





# Faith-Centered

- Prayer begins and ends their meetings.
- They see how the Scriptures and the teachings of the Church call us to defend the poor and the marginalized.
- They make a priority in their personal lives and in the committee meetings to pray and reflect on the spirituality that drives justice work.




# Organized

- Our best committees set goals and timetables for their work.
- They have an agenda and stick to it, take minutes and hold people accountable for their tasks.
- They evaluate their progress and report back to the parish on a regular basis.



# Creative

- Creativity sparks the imagination to indifferent people.
  - Make short term and fun opportunities for people to become involved.
  - Be open to other creative ideas from parishioners.
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# Relational

- Never lose track of your relationships with other parishioners.
- Seek out average parishioners and not just the passionate activists.
- Successful committees are driven by its relationships with the center of the parish not internally-focused on the committee's favorite issues.



# Focused on Justice

- The pressure on the committee is to do lots of projects or programs.
- You cannot do everything.
- Focus on getting parishioners to understand structural forces in society that keep people in poverty.
- Create simple ways for people to take action once their awareness is raised.



# Educating For Action

- Educate about different issues but also present how to respond to the issue.
- People are offered options to act on the issue at the event.
- Some actions require more time and commitment than others.





# In For The Long Haul

- Shared leadership is the hallmark of a highly-successful committee.
- Take the long view and are grooming new leaders and delegating responsibility.
- Keep away from the 'air of desperation' – always giving negative feelings about the mission and ministry.