

*St. Michael's Social Action &
Respect Life Ministries*

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*St. Michael's Social Action &
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*St. Michael the
Archangel
Catholic Church
Cary, NC*

**Social Action
and
Respect Life
Ministry
Information**

St. Michael's Social Action Committee
is committed to the mission of Jesus
Christ through the promotion of the
church's social mission of
charity and justice.

St. Michael's Respect Life Committee
organizes, educates, and mobilizes all
Catholics in our parish on Pro-Life issues,
to effect their action and to witness to
God's intention:
the sanctity of life in all stages.

These committees work
collaboratively.



What is Parish Social Action?

Parish Social Action ministries are the parish organizations that to serve those in our midst and around the world in the areas of charity, justice, and peace. We cannot be truly “Catholic” unless we hear and heed the Church’s call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace. We cannot call ourselves followers of Jesus unless we take up his mission of bringing “good news to the poor, liberty to captives, and new sight to the blind” (Luke 4:18).

**“...We are called to be
‘salt of the earth’ and
‘light of the world.’**

in the words of Scripture (Matthew 5:13-16).
This task belongs to every believer and every parish... The pursuit of justice and peace is an essential part of what makes a parish Catholic.”

from *Communities of Salt & Light:
Reflections on the
Social Mission of the Parish*,
United States Conference of
Catholic Bishops

How are Parish Social Action and Respect Life Organized?

The framework provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops asks us to examine each of the following areas in our local parish with social ministry and respect life in mind:

1. Prayer and Worship
2. Preaching and Education
3. Family, Work, Citizenship
4. Outreach and Charity
5. Legislative Action
6. Organizing for Justice

This broad framework leaves room for much creativity and individualization to best meet the needs of our parish.

What are the objectives of Parish Social Action & Respect Life Activities?

Parish social action and respect life activities are the action that the faith community takes to promote life, to live out the Gospel we proclaim, and to grow in love with God and neighbor. This definition outlines the three critical endeavors which all parishes, regardless of size and resources, can use to guide their parish social action and respect life efforts:

1. **Promoting the Gospel of Life** from conception to natural death.
2. **Living Out the Gospel We Proclaim** by responding as best we can to the diversity of needs and injustices that impact our world.
3. **Growing in Love with God and Neighbor** by helping parishioners and others beyond the parish boundaries.

We invite you to explore the possibilities and pray about where God is calling **YOU** to serve at St. Michael’s!

“The Church’s deepest nature is expressed in her three fold responsibility: of proclaiming the Word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity. The duties presuppose each other and are inseparable.”

Pope Benedict, *Deus Caritas Est*, #25
(Papal Encyclical)