

Public Policy Committee  
Diocese of Rochester  
2012 Education Priority:

***Common Good: We Are One in the Body of Christ***  
**DVD Packet**

This packet includes the materials to be used with the DVD, "*Common Good: We Are One in the Body of Christ*" produced by the Public Policy Committee, Diocese of Rochester, NY.

This packet includes:

1. An opening and closing prayer (2 pp.)
2. Facilitators' Guidelines (2 pp.)
3. Participants' Worksheets (2 pp.)
4. Action Steps and Resources for participants (1 page)
5. An evaluation form (1 page)

Please prepare enough copies of the Participants' Worksheets, Action Steps, and the Evaluation form (nos. 3, 4, and 5 above) so that each person has a copy.

**Our objective** in this educational priority is to help Catholics examine current socio-economic realities in our diocese and country in light of the Gospel and Catholic social teaching with special attention to the principle of the common good.

One copy of the DVD was sent to each pastor or pastoral administrator in the diocese.

The DVD may also be downloaded from the DOR website:

<http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/catholic-charities/public-policy/common-good/>

We invite parishes and faith communities to use this DVD during the Spring, Summer, and Fall of 2012.

*The DVD and DVD Packet were developed by a sub-committee of the Diocesan Public Policy Committee. Members of the sub-committee are: John Boroski, Linda Finlay, Sister Janet Korn, RSM, Marvin Mich, and William Pickett. Ruth Marchetti assisted with producing these materials and the updating the DOR website.*



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**Opening Prayer**

Sign of the Cross

Reading from Acts of the Apostles, 2:42-47, gives a glimpse of the early Christian community:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' instruction and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were performed by the apostles. Those who believe shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, dividing everything on the basis of each one's need. They went to the temple area together every day, while in their homes they broke bread. With exultant and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people."



(Brief reflections:)

These words paint a snapshot of what was important for the early Christians: including common prayer, sharing their meals and sharing of their resources so that the needs of each person were met.

We began our prayer with the sign of the cross, reminding us that the God we worship is a community of persons—Father, Son, and Spirit. We are created in the image of God who is a community of persons.

Let us Pray

Loving God, we come together as the early Christians did, eager to live our faith in you in difficult circumstances. Many in our world are looking for work, others are struggling with poverty and inadequate income. Some in our community are doing very well. We pray that your Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding may be with us as we look at these difficult issues. And like your Son, Jesus, may we find a way to serve those who are hurting and in need. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

## Closing Prayer

The Acts of the Apostles has a second description of the early Christian community which is very similar to the one we hear in the opening prayer. This reading is from chapter 4 verses 32-35.

"Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and one soul, and no claimed private ownership of any possession, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need."

(Brief Reflection:)

Pope Benedict XVI offered this commentary on the reading: "As the Church grew, this radical form of material communion could not in fact be preserved. But its essential core remained: within the community of believers there can never be room for a poverty that denies anyone what is needed for a dignified life" (*Deus Caritas Est*, no. 20)

For a concluding prayer invite members of the group to name the people they would like to remember in prayer, such as those who are looking for work, the sick, the poor.....

.....

[after members have mentioned their intentions, the leader offers this prayer:]

Loving God, we are grateful for this time we have spent together exploring how our faith connects with the realities of our world. We pray that we may be a faithful reflection of your Good News in the world by the way we gather in prayer and by the way we live as a community that cares for each person. Amen

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### **Facilitators' Guidelines**

**Purpose:** To help Catholics talk about the current socio-economic situation in our communities informed by the *Gospel* and Catholic Social Teaching with special attention to the principle of the common good.

**DVD:** The 32 minute *Common Good* DVD guides participants through a 100 minute format in three segments. If a break is taken, the program will take a little longer. The DVD is stopped and small group discussion takes place, before moving on to the next segment.

**Group Size:** 12-15 people in each discussion group. It may be necessary to have a number of small groups for discussion and viewing the DVD in common.

**Participant Worksheets:** To aid in the small group discussions, worksheets are provided with the questions to be discussed. *Group Discussion Guidelines* are listed on the worksheets.

**Newsprint or Whiteboards:** A newsprint or whiteboard may be used during the discussion sessions to jot down the ideas of the group.

#### **Group Discussion Guidelines:**

1. I will expect to hear different opinions than my own.
2. I will listen intently and not interrupt another speaker.
3. I will respectfully seek clarification of other participants' insights.
4. I will assure that everyone has an opportunity to speak and I will encourage others to speak before I speak again.



## Format

Opening Prayer	5
Guidelines and Introductions	6
First Segment of DVD	8
Group Discussion	15
Second Segment of DVD	2
Group Discussion	15
Third Segment of DVD	13
 (Optional Break	 15)
 Group Discussion	 15
Final Segment of DVD	6
Next steps and evaluation	10
Closing Prayer	5
 Total Time	 100 minutes- without a break

## Evaluation and Next Steps

The participants' worksheet contains a list of possible next steps as well as "three final questions. The group should spend some time sharing their responses to the "final questions" and their thoughts about next steps.

An evaluation form is provided.

Please send completed evaluations to: Marvin Mich  
Catholic Family Center  
87 N. Clinton Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14604

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**Participant Worksheets**

**Group Discussion Guidelines:**

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**Worksheet 1 (after slide 7)**

1. To what kind of life does Christ call us... today...in this time and place?
2. What are the implications of being part of the Body of Christ through our baptism and celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy?
3. We are made in God's image. God is a community of persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How does this understanding of God shape our identity as human beings?
4. Share your understanding of the common good.



**Worksheet 2** (after slide 9)

1. How would you characterize life in America today?  
Social, political, economic
2. What are the issues Christians need to be particularly attentive to ...  
either to change or to affirm?
3. Does the conversation, locally and nationally, reflect a concern for the  
common good?

**Worksheet 3** (after slide 25)

1. In light of the current economic, social, and political realities what are we as  
American Catholics to do?
2. How do we bring our faith into dialogue with these realities?

**Three Final Questions** (after slide 30)

1. What is the most important concept that I learned during this presentation  
and discussion?
2. What new question or issue has arisen for me during this conversation?
3. In the next two weeks, what will I do as a result of this presentation and  
conversation?

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### **Action Steps and Resources**

1. Join your parish social ministry committee.
2. Study the Gospel and Catholic social teaching by participating in a *JustFaith* program.
3. Volunteer at a Catholic Charities agency or other human service agency, school, or nursing home.
4. Read and discuss *Faithful Citizenship*.
5. Take time to pray and reflect on God's call to serve the poor and vulnerable.



### **Resources and Websites**

*Faithful Citizenship*: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/>

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good: <http://www.catholicsinalliance.org/>

Catholics for the Common Good: <http://ccgaction.org/>

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rochester <http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/catholic-charities/>

JustFaith programs: [www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org) or call Brigit Hurley, diocesan JustFaith coordinator, 585 546-7220 x 7099.

Pontifical Council on Justice and Peace, *Compendium of Social Doctrine of the Church*, Washington, D.C.: USCCB, 2005.

Kevin McKenna, *A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching*, Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2002.

Marvin Mich, *The Challenge and Spirituality of Catholic Social Teaching*, revised edition, Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2011.

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**Evaluation**

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. The DVD presentation was helpful and informative

Comment:

2. The discussions were engaging and thought-provoking

Comment:

3. I learned new information

- a. About the economic and political situation in the United States
- b. About Catholic social teaching

Comment:

4. Other comments:

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

