



## Areas of Concentrated Focus

**Social Justice****Accomplishments:***Educate and form believers in Catholic social teachings*

- Parish social ministry workshop held with other Catholic charity organizations in Diocese (April 2006)
- JustFaith pilot in Laramie and Cheyenne (2005-06)
- Diocesan workshop offered by JustFaith (Dan Driscoll) in July 2007 with ten parishes and 42 attendees
- In the past three years (2005-08) 85+ parishioners have completed or are currently enrolled in JustFaith
- In 2007-08, five parishes are supporting JustFaith classes (45 parishioners)
- COME AND SEE Conference (May 2007) focused on Stewardship and Social Justice issues and education.
- September 2006 Institute and January 2007 Institute both focused on social justice education and awareness
- Day of Recollection for priests (2007) focused on social justice,

Fr. Brian Hehir spoke to the priests

- Wyoming Council for Catholic Women 2007 deanery tour hosted Joan Rosenhauer, who spoke on social justice

**Continued priorities:***Establish a Diocesan ministry of social justice*

- Social Justice Commission formed in 2004 (Year of Social Justice was 2007)
- In Fall 2004, parishes surveyed on current charitable and social justice efforts
- Various ideas for supporting a Diocesan Social Justice Office are being explored

*Identify and respond to justice needs both within and outside the Diocese, with a particular emphasis on Hispanic ministry*

- Responded to hurricane and tornado relief efforts
- Financially contributed to Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Relief Services
- Operation Rice Bowl, and other projects that aid the poor, empower, and promote justice
- Our Lady of the Mountains Parish in Jackson initiated a ministry office focused on Hispanic needs. The office, while still associated with the parish, is now operated by the community

*Support systems, institutions, and public policies that cause and promote justice*

- Family Home Ownership Program initiated by a graduate of first JustFaith class - nine families have begun their journey to first-time home ownership
- Cheyenne Diocese is a stewardship diocese with a stewardship committee that will be distributing money (diocesan tithing) to local and national charitable and advocacy groups (Spring 2008)

**Stewardship****Accomplishments:***Planning/Development of resources*

- Diocesan Stewardship Plan established September 2006
- Deacon Douglas Vlcek hired as Director of Stewardship October 2006
- Diocesan Stewardship Council established November 2007; training and roles definition being done now
- Parish Stewardship Committees formed in most parishes during 2007 (activity varies)

*Accomplishments and Continued**Priorities:***Education/Formation of Clergy & Laity**

- Year of Prayer & Study of Stewardship 2006
- Deacon Doug Vlcek has visited 14 parishes and 7 missions thus far; each "Parish Stewardship Visit" consists of Deacon Doug preaching regarding Stewardship at all Masses, training of Parish Stewardship Committee, meeting with clergy, social gatherings with parishioners - these visits continue as

requested by pastors

- 12 issues of diocesan Stewardship Newsletter, "A Disciple's Response," have been published to form the people of God in Stewardship. Most parishes distribute this newsletter monthly with their bulletins - this continues
- Homilies related to Stewardship sent to clergy for their optional use/incorporation - this continues

**Practical Actions**

- Four parishes have executed the Gallup

"Engagement" Survey. All have used the results to enhance their Stewardship efforts

- CPS contracted in 8 parishes; many other parishes doing their own Time, Talent, Treasure Appeals
- New policy and philosophy for second collections communicated to all clergy
- Pastoral Letter on Stewardship in process
- Taskforce for Bishop's Annual Appeal established and working; brainstorming session at January 2008 Clergy Assembly; further work continues

**TO LEARN MORE:**

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“**V**ery simply, the mission of the Church in Wyoming is as Jesus set forth for all of his followers. That we shall ‘go forth, teach all nations, and baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.’ In other words, the Church doesn’t exist for herself. The Church exists in order to get people to Heaven and also to go out and win as many souls as possible.”

+ David L Ricken

Bishop David Ricken