

Charter of the Matthew 25 Leadership Community

Mission Statement:

The Matthew 25 Leadership Community shall be concerned with our responsibilities in the world as a people of the Eucharist. As such, the leadership community shall work with the Prayer & Worship, Faith Formation, Fellowship & Evangelization, and Mercy & Justice ministries, as well as other leadership communities to promote the authentic living out of our Eucharistic faith by seeing Jesus in our brothers and sisters in the world around us.

Purpose:

Guided by prayer, the Holy Scriptures and Catholic social teaching, the purpose of the Matthew 25 Leadership Community is to promote mercy and justice. We will strive to ignite the parish community into action by providing leadership, support and solidarity to the Good Shepherd parish (including pastoral staff, parishioners, and ministerial communities), as well as local and broader communities, as we:

- **educate** ourselves and our fellow parishioners about the need for justice and the social teachings of the Catholic Church;
- **pray** for guidance and strength to meet the challenges of the gospel;
- give **preference to the poor** and those who live on the margins of society;
- **stand with those who are oppressed** and help them meet their own needs;
- **organize** efforts to help our fellow parishioners put into practice their commitment to mercy and justice; and
- **advocate** for those who have no voice or whose voices are not heard.

Function:

The function of the Matthew 25 Leadership Community is to:

- assist the Pastor and Pastoral Staff in the review, prioritization and coordination of social ministry needs as requested;
- support those individuals and groups currently involved, or wishing to be involved, in social ministry;
- develop a family-centered education program, for all ages, which raises awareness of Catholic Social Teaching and Catholic Social Justice programs;
- promote and actively participate in activities which support the poor and the marginalized in Tallahassee and surrounding communities;
- partner with the Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission, the Florida Catholic Conference, and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to educate, motivate, and organize people as they work to affect social change through legislative advocacy;

Charter of the Matthew 25 Leadership Community

- promote Global Solidarity, including social justice and peace efforts, environmental stewardship, world hunger and other social development programs; and
- act as a model for Small Christian Communities incorporating the elements of prayer, faith-sharing, learning, mutual support and mission.

Membership:

Membership is open to those committed to the full scope of the Social Justice teachings of the Church and who prayerfully discern to participate in the mission, purpose and function of the Matthew 25 Leadership Community.

When available, a member of the Pastoral Staff will attend regularly scheduled meetings as a liaison with the pastoral team as well as other leadership communities.

Coordinator

A Coordinator will be discerned from the leadership community and will serve a term of one year. A Coordinator may serve an additional term of one year if felt called through prayer and affirmed by the leadership community.

The role of the Coordinator is to:

1. prepare and distribute meeting agenda via e-mail;
2. chair all regular and special meetings of the Matthew 25 Leadership Community; and
3. act as a liaison between the leadership community, the Pastor and Pastoral Staff, and other ministries as needed.

Meetings:

Regular meetings of the Matthew 25 Leadership Community will be held once a month, usually on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Special meetings may be conducted as necessary (announced via e-mail).

Minutes of meetings will be made available to all leadership community members as well as the public.