

## Parish Social Ministry Highlights: August 2014

### Opening Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:

Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this meeting.

Help us to engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community.

Fill us with your grace, Lord God, as we make decisions that might affect our community and our parishes.

And continue to remind us that all that we do here today, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of You, and for the service of humanity.

We ask these things in your name, Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:

**Parish Social Ministry Spotlight:** Our Lady of Our Lake: [Bill Verheggen](#)

Pentecost Day of Service: The Corporal Works of Mercy

The Our Lady of the Lake “Salt & Light” Stewardship Ministry held its first Day of Service on Saturday June 7th 2014 to allow parishioners to “breathe in the Holy Spirit and live out our faith as stewards of God’s many blessings.” The goal was to have all ministries of the parish involved in service projects for three to four hours at locations in Lake Oswego and the Metro area.

Key points:

1. 250 parishioners participated
2. The idea began as a “Big Event,” a specific activity with a specific date and purpose for parishioners to galvanize around
3. It had pastor support
4. It was publicized from the pulpit. (This was an extraordinary example: 7 weeks of sermons, each one on one corporal work.)
5. Logistics matter, including the details and especially the registration site and information
6. Parish support and ministry involvement was attained by intra-ministry networking
7. Effort was the result of teams, not one committee or a few individuals
8. Public witness: Participants stood at masses and were given a blessing
9. For many participants, this was a one-time or an annual event. For those who want more, grab them! These are the nourishment for future ministry work.

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### Advocacy Made Easy: Six Tips

1. As an Advocate *you* are a voice for the voiceless. As a voice *you* have power that the voiceless do not have. **That power includes – first! – being a constituent.** Congresspersons listen to constituents because they vote and have friends who vote.
2. You do not stand alone! When the Church sends you Action Alerts and you act, you speak on behalf of the Church. Remind your Representative (or, more likely, you may meet with a staff person) that **there are more than 400,000 Catholics in the Archdiocese of Portland.**
3. **Remind your Representative who's working with the poor in our state:** Catholic Charities, Catholic Community Services, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic hospitals.
4. If you visit, **go with a partner. Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs.** Moses took his brother Aaron. If you're advocating from a justice position, partner with someone who is doing direct service, someone who can tell stories about what they see.
5. There are two calls to action, and you may add your own: If your Representative supports any of these, thank him or her. **Our Representatives need encouragement for their continued support.** Then transition to "And we need your support on..."
6. **Stick to Catholic principles and values.** It is your Representative's job to decide where the money should come from to fund your program (but not from programs that protect the poor and hungry!).

In order of effectiveness (and each is important):

- a. Personal visit
- b. Handwritten letter
- c. Phone call
- d. Pray