

## CHURCH OF ST. MARY OF THE LAKE

### **VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION:**

Date: February 2013  
Positions: Committee Member – Sowers of Justice Committee  
Chairperson  
Newsletter Editor  
Affordable Housing Advocate  
Health Care Advocate  
Immigration Issues Advocate  
General Advocate  
Reports to: Pastor  
Commitment: One year with annual renewal

### **PRIMARY OBJECTIVE:**

To provide information to the Pastor, lay leaders and parishioners and encourage advocacy on social justice topics in accordance with the directive of the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

*“Far too many Catholics are not familiar with the basic content of Catholic social teaching. More fundamentally, many Catholics do not adequately understand that the social teaching of the Church is an essential part of Catholic faith. This poses a serious challenge for all Catholics, since it weakens our capacity to be a Church that is true to the demands of the Gospel. We need to do more to share the social mission and message of our Church.” Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions (U.S. Catholic Bishops 1998)*

### **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

St. Mary’s Sowers of Justice Committee members seek to educate themselves and the parish on Catholic social justice principles and their application in the real world. Members do this by reading, doing research and taking advantage of training opportunities offered by the Office of Social Justice of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and other social justice resources.

Participate in educational activities of the committee, using individual talents, experience and resources to contribute to the success of the committee’s work providing venues to increase the awareness of the St.Mary’s Community related to social justice issues.

Develop knowledge and deeper understanding in at least one of the major areas of Catholic social justice: Affordable Housing, Health Care Reform and Immigration issues

Recommend Parish financial support in area of Catholic social justice expertise

A member can choose to function in any of the positions listed above as needed. Members may assume more than one responsibility as needed,

Perform other duties as requested by Pastor or Chair

Build internal relationships with the pastor, parishioners and other parish departments, including the Parish Council and the Religious Education Department.

Build external relationships with the Archdiocese Office of Social Justice (OSJ), local and national advocacy groups (both electronic and physical) that support social justice principles. These need not be Catholic if the goals of the organization supports Catholic social justice principles.

Attend the monthly Sowers meeting on the second Thursday of each month or send report to Chair via email.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

Able to give and take direction and work with others as a team

Able to plan, organize and meet deadlines

Able to work unsupervised

Minimal computer skills, including Microsoft Office and e-mail

Able to commit 1-3 hours per month including meetings, self-directed learning and committee activities