

What is VOICES for Justice?

VOICES for Justice is a parish-based network of people trying to bring the social and economic justice teachings of the Church to bear on public policy and legislation, especially at local, state and federal levels.

VOICES for Justice influences public policy by following the lead for issues identified by the Diocesan Public Policy Committee for Delaware, the Maryland Catholic Conference, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

We advocate for these issues by

- telephoning, writing, emailing, and testifying
- building relationships and rapport with legislators
- educating and raising awareness within parishes
- encouraging others to participate

Voices for Justice members participate in annual issues briefings and trainings in legislative skills. We visit with legislators and government leaders and send action alerts during legislative sessions. We provide leadership development for our network liaisons. And, we offer spiritual and theological reflections for our legislative actions.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES LOCATIONS

Main Office

2601 W 4th Street
PO Box 2610
Wilmington, DE 19805
302-655-9624

Bayard House

300 Bayard Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19805
302-654-1184

Seton Villa

800 Bellevue Road
Wilmington, DE 19809
302-762-2982

Thrift Center

1320 E 23rd Street
Wilmington, DE 19802
302-764-2717

Kent Office

1155 W Walker Road
Dover, DE 19904
302-674-1600

Sussex Office

406 S Bedford Street, Ste 9
Georgetown, DE 19947
302-856-9578

Casa San Francisco

127 Broad Street
Milton, DE 19968
302-684-8694

Eastern Shore Office

1201 Pemberton Drive, Ste 1A
Salisbury, MD 21801
410-749-1121

La Casita

411 Wicomico Street, Ste A
Salisbury, MD 21801
410-749-2287

Seton Center

30632 Hampden Avenue
PO Box 401
Princess Anne, MD 21853
410-651-9608

Toll-free 24-hour pregnancy counseling hotline

1-877-225-7870

Visit our website

www.cdow.org/charities.html

Catholic Charities directs and coordinates the charitable and social service programs of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington.

It delivers critical direct care human services to individuals and families residing in Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland regardless of their religion, race, or ability to pay.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

VOICES for Justice



Putting Catholic Social Teaching into Action

Is it appropriate for us, as Catholics, to advocate on behalf of social and economic justice?

Yes!

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops calls us to conversion and action by saying,

“... As a Church, we must be people after God’s own heart, bonded by the Spirit, sustaining one another in love, setting our hearts on God’s kingdom, committing ourselves to solidarity with those who suffer, working for peace and justice, acting as a sign of Christ’s love and justice in the world...”

We ask you to become more informed and active citizens, using your voices and votes to speak for the voiceless, to defend the poor and the vulnerable, and to advance to common good. We are called to shape a constituency of conscience, measuring every policy by how it touches the least, the lost, and the left out among us...”

excerpts from Economic Justice for All: Pastoral Letter of Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy, 1986.

What does the Catechism of the Catholic Church say about advocating for a just society?

It is part of the vocation of the faithful to intervene directly in the political structuring and organization of social life. It is the role of the faithful to animate temporal realities with Christian commitment, by which they show that they are witnesses and agents of peace and justice.

Is VOICES for Justice partisan?

VOICES for Justice is nonpartisan. It focuses on issues, not candidates or political platforms.

What are some of the legislative priorities of VOICES for Justice?

A full range of respect life issues from abortion, to the death penalty, to assisted suicide; poverty concerns from homelessness prevention, to welfare reform, to economic development; questions of human rights and dignity at the local, national, and international levels.

What if I don’t know anything about these (or other) issues and I’ve never written or called a legislator?

Parish Social Ministry will provide as much information about substantive issues as is available to answer questions you may have. Individual or group training on how to write or speak to a legislator will also be provided upon request. The most important thing to remember is that the most effective advocacy messages are simple and personalized.

Advocacy

... is giving personal witness to your faith by speaking on behalf of those who frequently are not heard at the policy making level.

What motivates advocacy is the belief that faith and action need to be linked. Through advocacy, legislators are made aware that all of us have a responsibility to the needs of God’s special people.

How can I help?

Join VOICES for Justice!

Complete this form and mail it to:

Catholic Charities
Parish Social Ministry
2601 W 4th Street
Wilmington, DE 19805

Or email the information to
charities@ccwilm.org

PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email : _____

Parish: _____

Comments: _____

You can also get involved by making a financial contribution to benefit Voices for Justice.

You can donate using a credit card by visiting our website at <https://www.cdow.org/ccdonation.html>.

You may also send a check to Catholic Charities, 2601 W 4th Street, Wilmington, DE 19805. Note Voices for Justice on the memo line.