

Community Engagement & Participatory Action

Description

Community Engagement and Participatory Action encourage the development of cultures and policies that protect our common home and all who share it. It refers to collaborative engagement and advocacy at the local, regional, national, and international levels to promote policies and practices that respect the dignity of life, and care for our common home.



Scripture

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

Mt 18:20

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1 Cor 12:26



Laudato Si'

A global consensus is essential for confronting the deeper problems, which cannot be resolved by unilateral actions on the part of individual countries. LS #164

Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds...The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion.

LS #219

Society is also enriched by a countless array of organizations which work to promote the common good and to defend the environment, whether natural or urban. . . . These actions cultivate a shared identity, with a story which can be remembered and handed on. In this way, the world, and the quality of life of the poorest, are cared for with a sense of solidarity which is at the same time aware that we live in a common home which God has entrusted to us. LS #232

We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it. LS #229



Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. . . In this framework, along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a 'culture of care' which permeates all of society. LS #231

Our Bishops

The USCCB shares this resource about encounter and dialogue:

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Following-Pope-Francis-Dialogue-in-Fratelli-Tutti.pdf> and <https://www.usccb.org/resources/Loving-our-Neighbor-through-Dialogue.pdf>



Reflection

How are you currently engaged in advocacy at the local and national level?

How does this advocacy speak to the realities of your community/neighborhood?

How do you already promote empowerment and advocacy?

What additional ideas do you have to promote community resilience and empowerment in your faith community, and beyond to the wider community?

The ability to dialogue across perspectives is essential in order that social love can inspire “new ways of approaching the problems of today’s world, of profoundly renewing structures, social organizations and legal systems from within.” (Fratelli Tutti, no. 183) With whom will you dialogue to solve problems?

What are the values you bring to the table? How can you be open to finding common values with your conversation partner? What might you have in common? To what are you both committed?



Prayer

God of resurrection, we ask for the grace to collaborate with members of our community and all people who are working towards ecological justice and restoration. We pray for the spirit of discernment as we consider how our unique talents and vocations can support our community in this endeavor. Through our own discernment and



engagement, we pray that we can empower others to see their own gifts and to act for ecological justice. *Ignatian Solidarity Network*

Media

Call to family, community and participation:

<https://ccswv.org/blog/2020/02/25/cst-1/>

What is community engagement?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4Z-VGSxHzQ>



Actions

Take action <https://www.usccb.org/take-action>

[Advocacy - Ignatian Solidarity Network](#)

[Take Action - Jesuits.org](#)

[Advocacy Resources - Franciscan Action Network](#)

<https://moenvironment.org/take-action/>

<https://www.sierraclub.org/missouri/blog/2016/12/sierra-club-missouri-chapter-politics-and-elections>

Use this examination of conscience about engagement

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Examination-of-Conscience.pdf>

Take the pledge to Civilize It! *Civilize It: A Better Kind Of Politics* is a response to Pope Francis' invitation. Join us (USCCB) to model this "better kind of politics." Take the pledge to commit to seeking the truth, building bridges, and finding solutions together that promote the common good.

<https://www.usccb.org/civilizeit>

