

MISSION STATEMENT

The Immaculate Conception Social Justice Ministry gives us a way to collectively work together to put our faith in action by building relationships, addressing local issues that impact our parish community and by working to create systemic change to uphold our common human dignity.

VISION STATEMENT

By using the organizing model of Together Colorado, the Social Justice ministry at Immaculate Conception parish will provide opportunities for congregation members to use their time, talent and treasure to work together to address identified social justice issues.

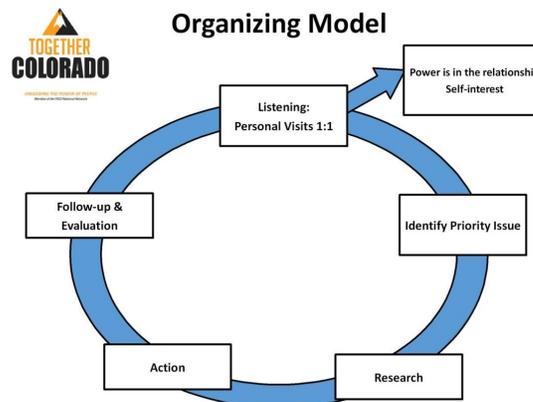
GOALS

1. Build relationships in our parish community.
2. Identify social justice interests and concerns of the Immaculate Conception community.
3. Prioritize, share and involve parish community in how our ministry moves forward on issues.
4. Conduct needed research on any prioritized issue.
5. Create an action plan to address any issue.
6. Conduct follow-up and evaluation on the results of any action plan and work of our ministry.

Please use the contact information on the back panel if you would like to join us.

TOGETHER COLORADO CREDENTIAL

Together Colorado is a multi-faith, multi-racial community organization comprised of 220 congregations, schools and faith leaders throughout the state of Colorado working together to put human dignity at the center of public life in Colorado. We transform our communities through community organizing, training local community members to act on their own behalf on the issues that most deeply affect their lives. Together Colorado is a member of the Faith in Action national network.



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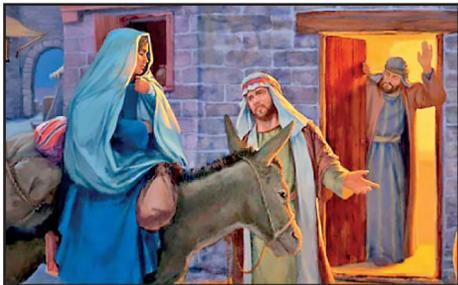
SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY



Strengthening the faith of the community and families through
Worship, Education and Prayer

BUILDING AWARENESS AND CREATING ACTION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING ISSUES

NO ROOM AT THE INN



During the Advent season (four weekends prior to Christmas), the Social Justice Ministry will build awareness, ask for reflection and create social action surrounding the affordable housing crisis facing members of our congregation. To further illustrate and draw attention to that point, we will be following the path of Mary and Joseph as they traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus, only to find no room for them to stay. Members of our congregation are facing the same dilemma today, as many cannot find room or afford safe and decent housing in our community.

Relevant data points:

- The front range population of Colorado has exploded in the last ten years and housing costs have doubled.
- Colorado residents are looking for small, quality affordable homes and none are being built.
- Affordable housing suffers from a “not in my back yard” (NIMBY) problem.
- Home prices are rising faster than wages in 80% of USA markets.
- Immaculate Conception parish has over 1700 families with diverse needs and many cannot find or qualify for decent, affordable housing.

WILLOUGHBY CORNER

Willoughby Corner is a planned affordable housing site on a 24-acre parcel located just southwest of the intersection of 120th Street and East Emma Street in Lafayette. Boulder County (Boulder County Housing Authority) and the City of Lafayette have an agreement dedicating the land for the creation of deed-restricted, permanently-below-market-rate units. “Affordable Housing” is defined where the total cost of monthly rent payments cannot exceed 30% of gross monthly household income. The agreement also states that (in perpetuity) the land can only be used for affordable housing.



The Social Justice Ministry has been providing input for the overall plan, resulting in the development of a sketch plan. We became the first faith-based group to be selected as members of the East Lafayette Advisory Council (ELAC). Our group has attended numerous ELAC meetings to support the Willoughby Corner project, as well as presented testimony at the City of Lafayette Planning Commission meeting.

On September 24, 2019, the Lafayette Planning Commission unanimously approved the sketch plan for the development. Over the next year, several more plan renditions must be approved before construction can start.

MOBILE HOME OVERSIGHT

Manufactured homes (mobile homes) are often the only housing option that is affordable for low-income members of the Immaculate Conception congregation and other Colorado residents. While a Colorado Mobile Home Park Act was passed in 1985, the only available enforcement tool for documented abuses was for the resident to hire a lawyer and file a lawsuit. Very few residents can afford the cost of a lawsuit.



Fortunately, the Mobile Home Oversight Act was passed in the 2019 legislative session. This new law will lengthen timeframes for paying rent and eviction notices. Probably the most important element is the creation of a dispute resolution and enforcement system to make sure the new act is being followed. The law will be fully implemented by May 1, 2020.

The Social Justice Ministry at Immaculate Conception has been very involved in meeting with local mobile home park residents who are members of our congregation. The ministry has representation on the Executive Policy Committee: Manufactured Housing Communities, which is working on the implementation of the Mobile Home Oversight Act, as well as developing new mobile home legislation for the 2020 legislative session.