

The "Two Feet" of Social Ministry

- private, individual acts
- responds to immediate need
- provides direct service: food, clothing, shelter
- requires repeated actions
- directed at the effects of injustice (symptoms)
- Satisfying, non-controversial

Homeless shelters, food shelves, clothing drives, emergency collections etc.

Charity

- public, collective actions
- responds to long-term needs
- promotes social change in institutions
- resolves structural injustice
- directed at the root causes of injustice
- exciting, sometimes controversial

Legislative advocacy, Influence systems change Parish and Community organizing for social change etc.

Justice

"Service and action, charity and justice are complementary components of parish social ministry. Neither alone is sufficient; both are essential signs of the gospel at work"

(U.S. Bishops Communities of Salt and Light, 1993)