

Primary Collective Social Justice Project.

Although MMACC collectively supports several service projects each year as a community (see list below), our most important social justice action is our *very existence as a Catholic parish and worshipping community* practicing women's ordination, inclusive language, gender balance, shared-governance and contemporary theology.

Why is MMACC's Existence a Social Justice Project ?

The Roman Catholic Church is a worldwide institution. Its theology and practice impact the social structures of all countries where it has significant presence and influence. It denies women access to the status and structures which govern the church. The Church's theology about women, sexuality and gender roles:

- provide the social justification for discrimination against, impoverishment of and the abuse of women in developing societies;
- become the social justification for denying women self-development, education, and meaningful work outside the home.
- subject women to unwanted pregnancies and children they cannot feed;
- become the social justification for the absolute authority of the male in home, church and society;
- provide the foundation for sexual assault of women within and without marriage, rape of women, physical abuse, emotional abuse and physical abuse of women, and the emotional abuse and neglect of children;
- perpetuate economic and political structures that keep women and children powerless over their own destinies.

Since most of the worlds' poor are women and children, the Roman Catholic Church cannot seriously address poverty without seriously addressing issues of gender equality in the Church.

It is necessary to change the RC church's theologies of women, sexuality and gender roles to change the structures which impoverish women and children and render them powerless.

How does the RC Church discriminate against women?

- The Roman Catholic Church excludes women from receipt of all seven sacraments.
- Canon 1084 prohibits the ordination of women.
- All significant decision making roles in the Church require ordination.

Unless and until women are ordained, women cannot participate in serious church decision making at any level or in the ongoing self-understanding of the church.

We Model A New Way to Be Catholic

- radical inclusivity
- women's ordination
- gender balance in all roles of church life, decision making and self-understanding.

Other Collective Ministries: Providing Services to Those in Need

- Tithe quarterly to organizations/charities suggested by community members (see Tithe Recipient List);
- Support the Serra Mesa Food Pantry with volunteers and funds;
- Participate in seasonal outreach projects;
- Annual participation in the Pride Parade;
- Maintain a fund to help parishioners in need;
- Build relationships with other community organizations (see Supportive Organizations)
- Contribute to, and are present at, several San Diego charity events.
- Commit ourselves collectively to the care, preservation and protection of our planet by adopting community practices that support planetary health rather than diminish it.

Pooling Individual Efforts

Most MMACC members bring individual commitments to volunteer work with them when they join MMACC. We celebrate our individual ministries and resources which, together, make an impact more than the sum of our individual efforts. Individual parishioners' engagement in outreach and service oriented ministries bring ideas and inspiration about how to make our world a better place in the present.

Some of the ministries in which individual members participate include the following:

Serra Mesa Food Pantry	Catholic Worker
Ministry to the Hungry Dinner	Western Services Workers Association
Amigos de los Californios	St. Leo's Free Dental Clinic
Wounded Warriors	Urban Discovery Academy
Thousand Smiles	LGBT Pride Parade
Dignity	Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
Immaculate Heart Community	Imperial Beach Health Center
Burundi Friends International	Call to Action
Contemplative Outreach	Women's Ordination Conference (USA)
Womens Ordination Worldwide	Roman Catholic WomenPriests
Veterans Treatment Court	Animal Rescue
Community Youth Athletic Center	

Justice within our MMACC Community

We strive to engage in just and loving relationships with one another:

- striving to work together as equals;
- interacting with kindness, love, compassion, patience and appreciation toward one another;
- living gospel values (loving, giving, forgiving and not judging) in our interaction with one another.

Conclusion

The presence and action of an institution in the world cannot exist for itself only, but must also exist for the larger communities in which it finds itself, from local to global levels.

Be the Church you want to see in the world!