

**Next Horizons Planning Overnight  
and  
Assessment of Justice and Service Programs Survey**

**Summary Report**

**July 11, 2011**

Below is a summary report of our recent survey. It had a 19% response rate which is considered good in terms of survey responses, especially one, such as this which was sent to an audience which would have considered this “off-season” for response towards desk work in a time of summer workcamps and conferences and vacations.

The Division of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (DYYAM) offers their gratitude to those who assisted in the plan and development of the survey as well as Susan Herd of the Archdiocesan Information Technology office.

With just under 100 responses, after identifying themselves by name and parish, respondents were asked to identify their role in the parish.

This survey was first presented to the Next Horizons for Justice and Service committee, which is composed of sub-committees who are developing and recreating key DYYAM social justice programs. Below is a summary of the feedback the committee had on the results of the survey. The survey served as a needs assessment of social justice programming in the Archdiocese and was found so valuable by the committee, that it will be used as tool for formation on social analysis on one of our programs.

**Survey data that the committee saw as VERY POSITIVE:**

- A large number of respondents were pastors and PLDs
- Over 50% of parishes responded that reflection happened before, during and after social justice activities
- Project based hours needed
- Collections of things and money for people in poverty prevails over advocacy of justice
- Required service hours for liturgical ministry participants was a pleasant surprise
- Lots of parish-wide service opportunities
- Most parish formation curriculums integrate social justice
- Family social justice programming in bulletins was a pleasant surprise
- Survey questions on family programming and prison outreach might have stirred folks to be more proactive in this area
- Parish personnel want to have young people involved in all aspects of social justice
- That even lower rated activities, such as prayer groups for social justice and awareness events, even ranked

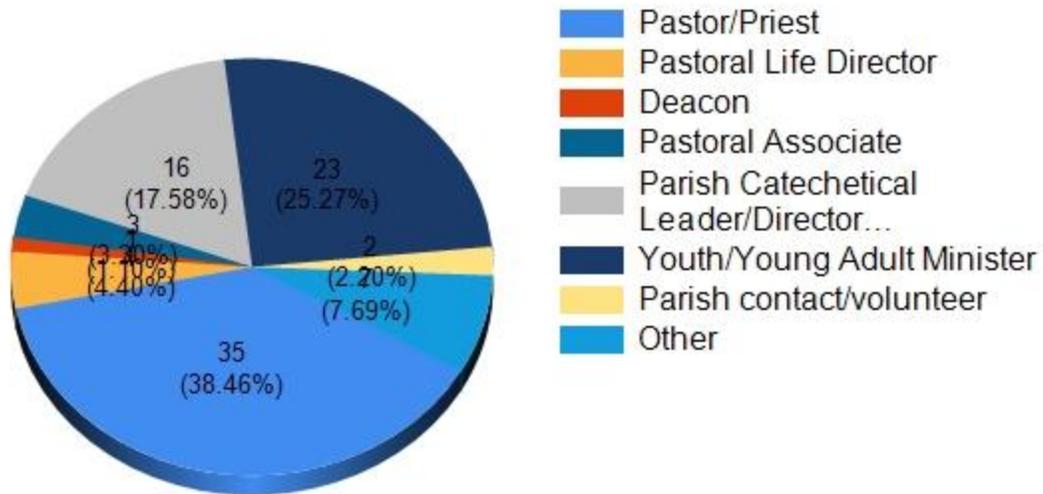
**Survey data that left the committee “wondering”:**

- The 'popular' activities required the least amount of time
- Young adult ministry had little to no involvement in social justice
- In one instance, the entire curriculum of religious education for a parish was entirely on social justice and not in the context of our entire faith
- Social justice is more about people outside of the city, there was hardly an understanding of the needs of city youth
- Confirmation service hours was not "strictly enforced", yet can be read as a parish not simply seeking to count hours.
- Evangelization committees were not really responsible for justice and service, this could have been misread
- Families are not connected to youth ministry efforts
- Planning of outreach programs had low number of youth committee vs. youth. Some parishes might have youth planning programs and yet not call them a youth committee.
- Immigration is so low on the advocacy radar when it is actually a huge justice matter in our country
- Action is by far higher than advocacy

**Survey data the committee felt REQUIRED ACTION:**

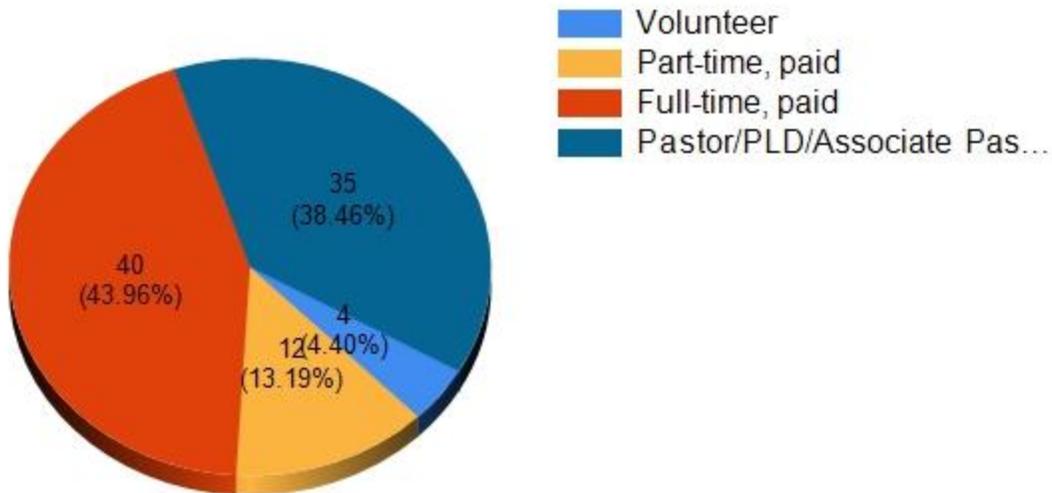
- Immigration became a reality to Justice Action Week participants last year because of the witness of an immigrant youth participant. Topic should become more prevalent in our trainings and programs.
- Parish personnel need to understand the comprehensive nature of our faith and how it includes social justice. Much education is needed.
- It is key to start looking at regional models to engage young adults
- Social justice activities seem to be disconnected and not part of the parish.
- It is important to keep in touch with college graduates.
- Young people are not expanding on the justice and service experiences.
- Do parishes connect with work camps after participants have returned from their experiences?
- Education and Lobbying is very low on the parish radar, especially since we are so close to Washington, D.C.

## Your role in the parish? (91 Responses)



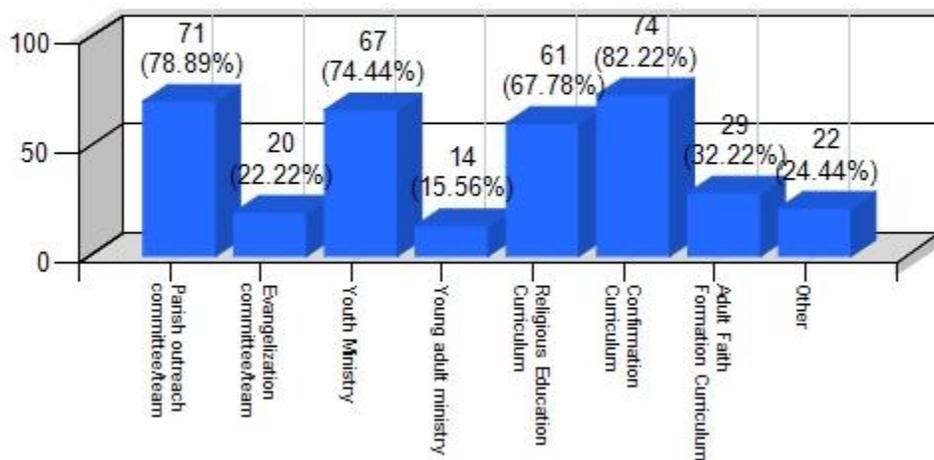
They also were asked about their status of employment (as a volunteer or full/ part-time staff/ youth ministry contact as well as a Pastor or other pastoral leader.

## At the parish, I am... (91 Responses)

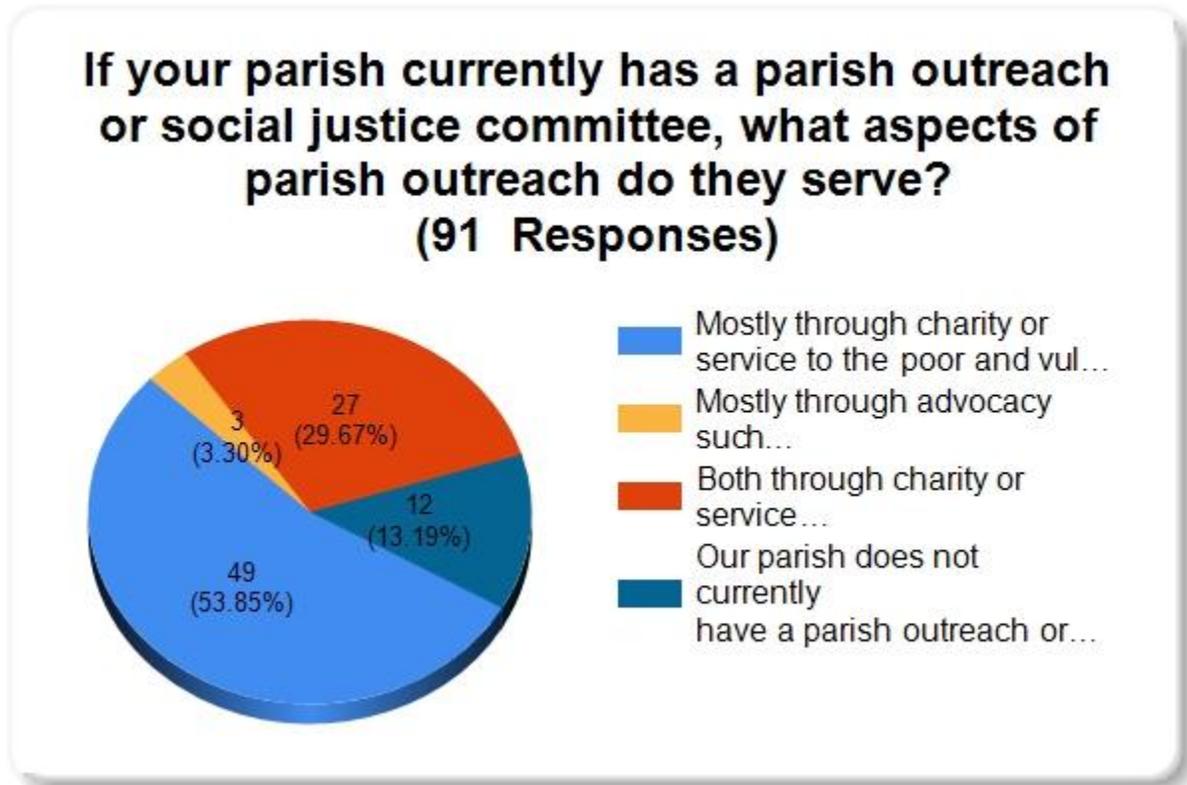


Respondents then were asked about where social justice issues fit in their parish structure

## Under what ministries are social justice issues addressed in the parish? (90 Responses)



Respondents were also asked, if there was a parish social justice committee, what the aspects of their outreach were:



A question regarding the collaborative efforts of such a committee with other ministries returned with some of the following themes represented:

- Support of sister parishes
- Faith Formation, Confirmation and Youth Ministry work together on projects for the poor and needy and the entire parish supports outreach to Baltimore city and Appalachia.
- They are mostly independent, but sometimes use volunteers from youth ministry in some of their projects.
- Other ministries have been very supportive of the St. Vincent de Paul outreach, both verbally and financially.
- Tries to serve as a coordinating body for all social justice activities; individual groups or committees take responsibility for executing various activities
- We have multiple ministries organized by volunteer individuals through our parish that serve different aspects of Social Justice. We do not just have a singular committee.
- I think all the ministries support our outreach, but it has been hard to get anyone interested in social justice education or advocacy.
- The Youth Ministry and Religious Ed Students volunteer to help with food distribution and packing

One unsettling comment, not indicative of the rest of the comments but worthy of note was:

- ... As Youth Minister, I cannot speak of the other aspects of parish life and whether they address social justice or not.

Respondents were asked to assess their confidence in parish outreach leaders in their knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching



Respondents also reported on the types of programming available.

Option	Count	Percent
Hunger/Homelessness	80	93.0
Respect Life	64	74.4
Adults/Elderly	46	53.5
Children and Family	45	52.3
Health & Wellness	36	41.9
Human Rights/Advocacy	25	29.1
Prison Outreach	25	29.1
Community Development and Resources	24	27.9
Environmental Sustainability/Natural Resources	19	22.1
Immigration	16	18.6
Other	5	5.8
Total:	385	100.0

Respondents reported on the types of response methods available.

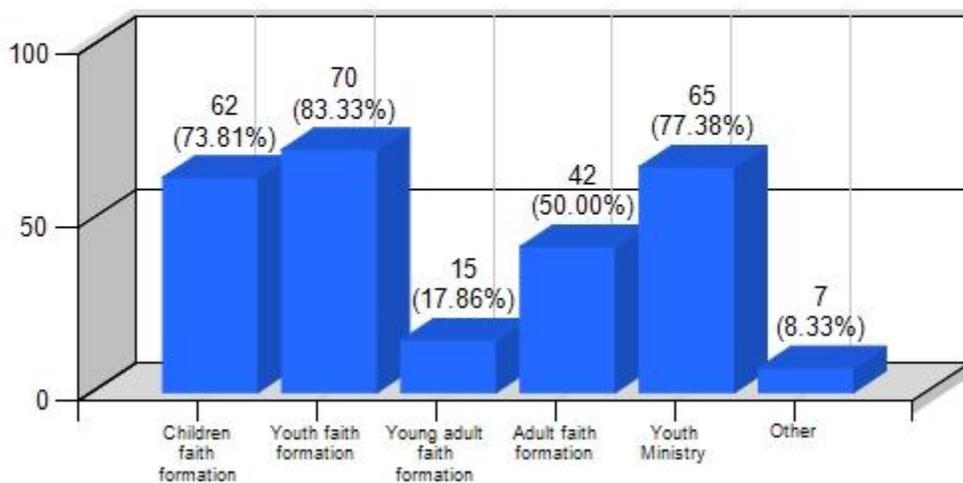
Option	Count	Percent
Material Collections (i.e. food - clothing - etc.)	88	96.7
Monetary Collections	87	95.6
Respect Life	69	75.8
Work camps or mission trips	54	59.3
1-day service projects	52	57.1
Archdiocesan or community-based programs (i.e. Food Fast - Shelters - Food Service programs)	52	57.1
National-based programs (i.e. Souperbowl of Caring - ServeFest)	49	53.8
Calling /writing and /or lobbying elected representatives about justice issues	44	48.4
International-based programs (i.e. Volunteer Corps - Haiti partnership - etc.)	32	35.2
Justice/Human Rights Awareness Events	22	24.2
Prayer groups dedicated to justice and service	16	17.6
Total:	565	100.0

A question regarding what is perceived as the “popular” program and why returned with some of the following themes represented:

- Adopt a Family at Christmas and Haiti - we have had a long standing relationship with our sister parish Scholarships - Mother Seton Academy, Christo Rey
- Either Haiti sister parish or SVD are our most valuable outreach/social justice because they not only provide direct aid for those in need but also educate the parish about the situation people live in.
- In terms of numbers, the Christmas giving tree, because it makes the giving more personal. (e.g. I'm buying a gift for a person instead of a can of food for "the poor.") In terms of interest, work camp because of the impact on young people...they want to tell their friends about it.
- Our Food pantry
- I think people are drawn most to the casserole/food collection/monetary collections. These are the kinds of activities that require little to no involvement.
- yearly trips for teens to help those in need in other regions of the country
- ORB - involves members of all ages. Casseroles for our daily bread - People can decide on level of involvement and is open to people of all circumstances.
- Our Christmas outreach programs, mainly because of the "feelings" attached to this work around the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.
- Thanksgiving baskets: least amount of time for parishioners to commit to.
- Respect Life - Project Gabriel. It is consistent and supports a local agency.
- Our Christmas Adopt A Family program - parishioners buy and deliver gifts for a family in need. It is successful because it allows the whole family to participate.

Respondents also reported that teaching Catholic Social Teaching is an area for school-age children and adults.

### In what areas of faith formation is Catholic Social Teaching part of the curriculum? (84 Responses)



Respondents reported on the service project which families could participate in.

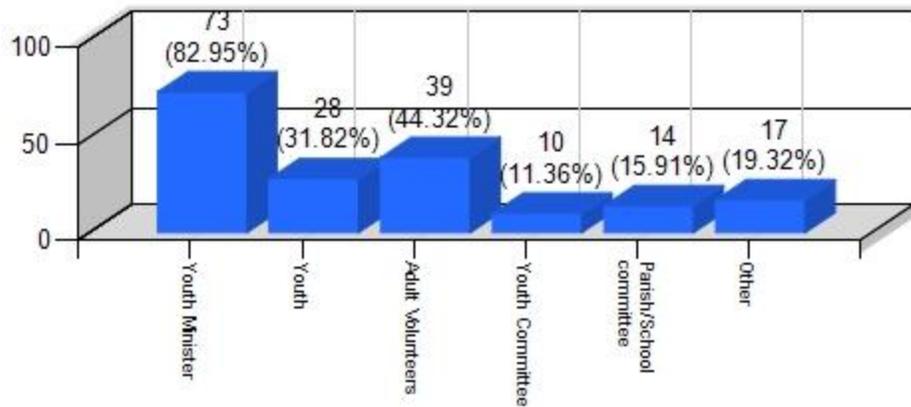
- At Thanksgiving - there is a basket of food given to over 300 families
- Yes. Each year Confirmation, Family Home Ministry, and faith Formation works on service projects for the poor, the hungry, school supplies for the needy, and support to several pregnancy centers.
- Yes, H2O Project, Christmas Giving Tree, Thanksgiving Baskets, Baby Shower. Also, many Confirmation candidates' families help make lunches for the poor, etc.
- Stone Soup Sunday- People bring in vegetables, cooked meat, cooked pasta, etc. add it to the pot to make soup. Once a month PB&J sandwiches are made. Summer Family sessions are used to make casseroles and sweets for Rita's Supper Table. Families participate in Rebuilding Together, repairing homes for the elderly. Families make casseroles. Food collections through RE classes and VBS Families "adopt" a family for Christmas.
- Not that I am aware of.
- making casseroles for Our Daily Bread

- Youths help in entertaining and sending cards to those in nursing homes, every 2nd weekend is a collection for non-perishable food, quarterly collection of used clothing for St. Vincent de Paul, collection of gifts for the poor at Christmastime.
- Yes- it is the mission of this parish. Sarah's House, Habitat for Humanity, Homeless Shelter, Adopt-a-family, etc.
- Absolutely. Families are asked to help in various service projects through school and our St. Vincent de Paul.
- Yes, Families participate in youth group, Confirmation and parish service projects.

Respondents reported on the resources available for families to learn about and participate in outreach/ social justice at home.

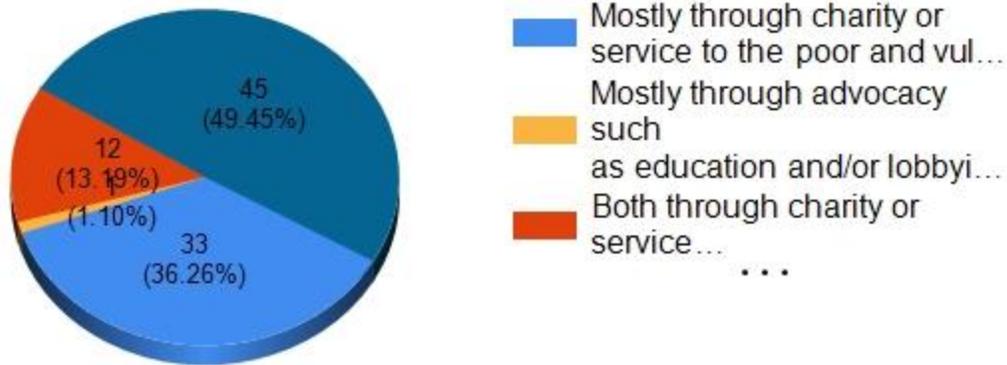
- Our text book series in faith Formation has chapters dedicated to Catholic Social teaching and in Family Home Ministry we centered our entire curriculum on social justice and Catholic social teaching. Most were totally unaware of the theme.
- In some of the Lenten and Advent materials, there is education about outreach and social justice.
- Besides making casseroles at home, this needs work.
- Yes. In our bulletin we run a social justice section on occasion. We give resource links to upcoming issues such as assisted suicide, right to life, have talks and presentation on care for the dying, final planning for funerals, etc.
- Family pages in bulletin
- We constantly have pamphlets and information in the back of our church as well as the bulletin and on the website for people to find where they can serve in their state in life.
- YES: Operation Rice Bowl & Food Fast
- We have had Outreach Fairs in which different local resources were invited to come and distribute information to families in the area
- Yes. Confirmation outreach/social justice.

## When outreach/social justice programs are planned for your youth program, who is planning them? (88 Responses)



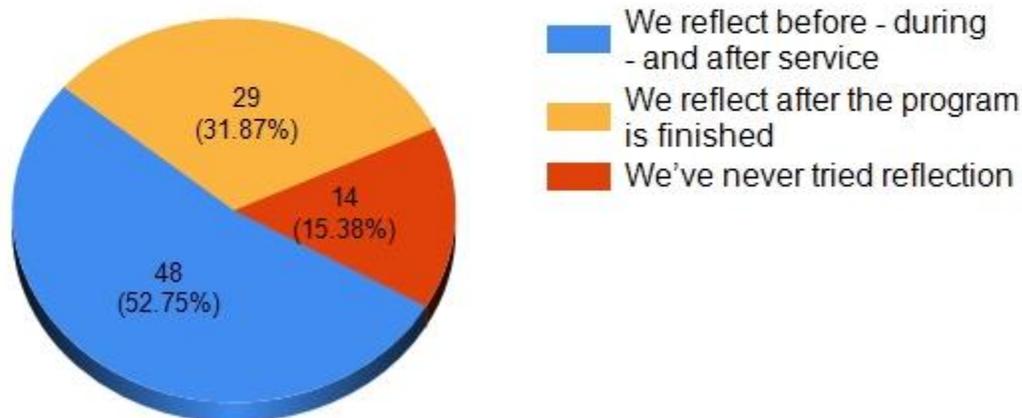
Regarding a justice or service themed committee, the offered answers were \*Mostly through charity or service to the poor and vulnerable \* Mostly through advocacy such as education and/or lobbying \* Both through charity or service and advocacy and \* Our Youth ministry does not currently have a social justice or service themed committee

**If your Youth Ministry currently has a social justice or service themed committee, what aspects of outreach/social justice do they serve?  
(91 Responses)**

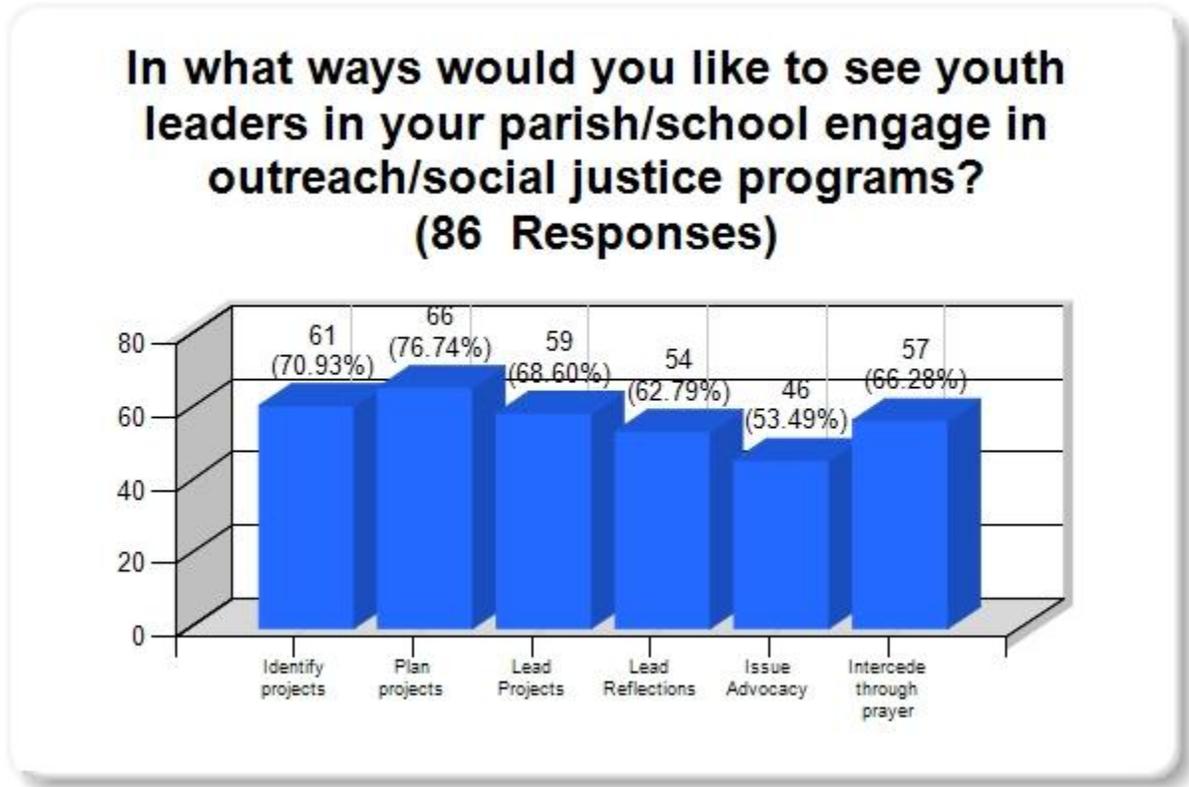


Regarding our service learning initiative, respondents were asked about if and how they “debrief” the experience.

**How is reflection used to help young people debrief the service programs in which they participate?  
(91 Responses)**



Respondents were asked in what ways would like to see young people engaged in social justice programming.



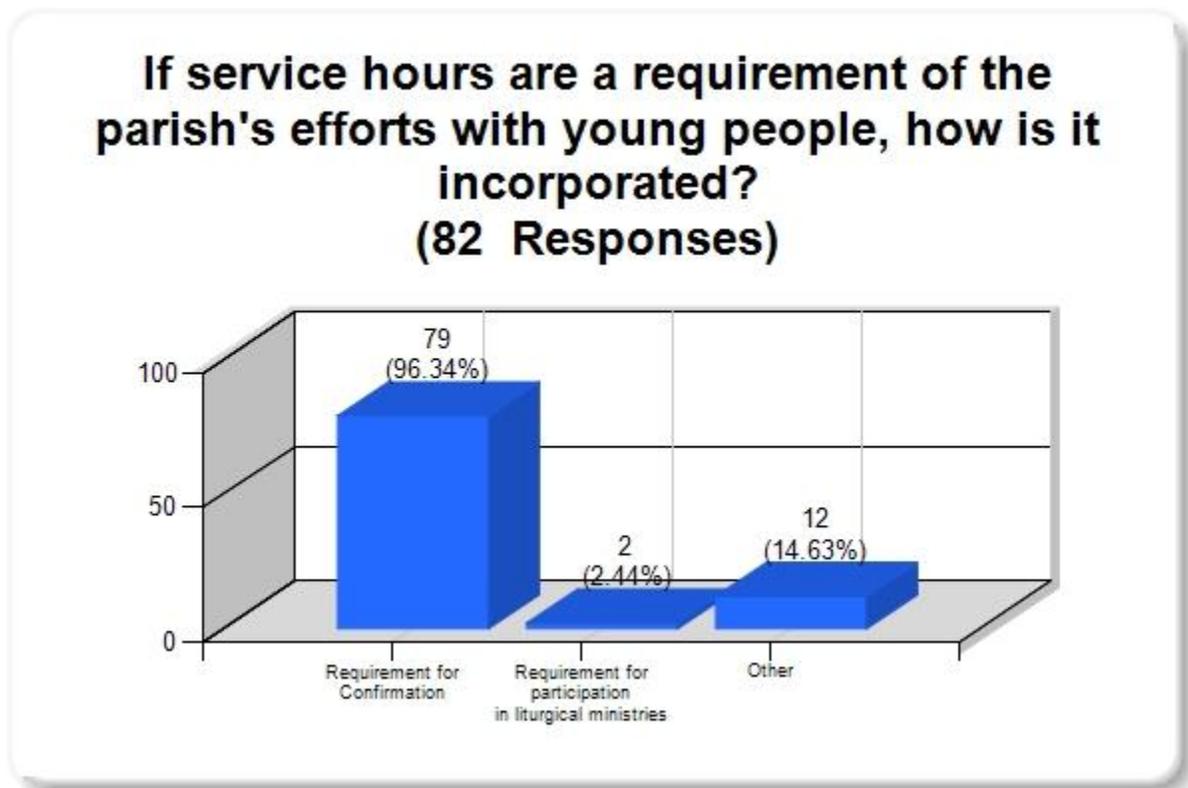
Participants were asked about social justice themes in youth ministry programming

Option	Count	Percent
Hunger/Homelessness	75	90.4
Respect Life	43	51.8
Adults/Elderly	40	48.2
Children and Family	37	44.6
Human Rights/Advocacy	21	25.3
Community Development and Resources	21	25.3
Environmental Sustainability/Natural Resources	18	21.7
Health & Wellness	11	13.3
Prison Outreach	9	10.8
Immigration	9	10.8
Other	3	3.6
<b>Total:</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Participants were asked about the types of social justice programming in youth ministry.

Option	Count	Percent
Material Collections (food - clothing - etc.)	72	85.7
Monetary Collections	58	69.0
1-day service projects	56	66.7
Work camps or mission trips	52	61.9
National-based programs (i.e. Souperbowl of Caring - ServeFest - Carwash for Life - March for Life - etc.)	44	52.4
Archdiocesan or community-based programs (i.e. Food Fast - Shelters - Food Service programs)	41	48.8
Respect for Life Programming	29	34.5
International-based programs (i.e. Volunteer Corps - Haiti partnership - etc.)	16	19.0
Justice/Human Rights Awareness Events	11	13.1
Prayer groups dedicated to justice and service	10	11.9
Calling/writing and/or lobbying elected representatives about justice issues	4	4.8
Total:	393	100.0

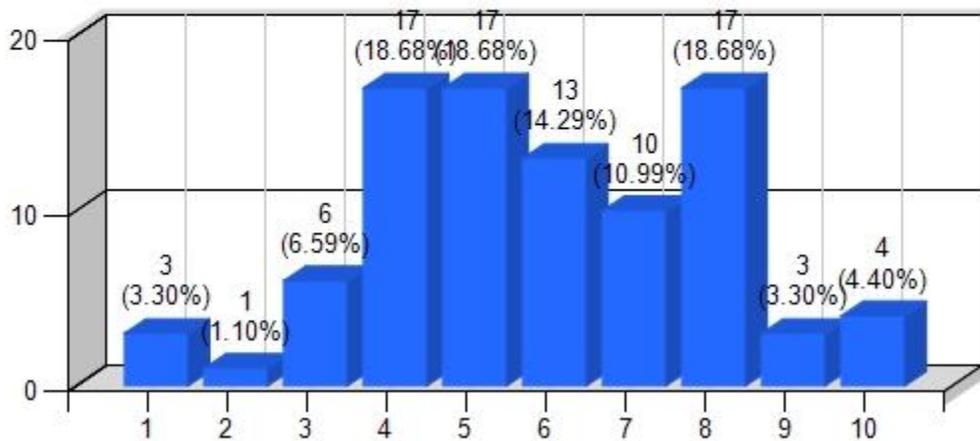
Regarding service hour expectations



In a sample regarding how many hours, responses included:

- NA - 3 projects focusing on parish, family & community
- No certain hours.
- 25
- 15 for Confirmation
- not strictly enforced
- Project based, not hours based
- 6

## How knowledgeable are your youth ministry team members about Catholic Social Teaching? (91 Responses)



Regarding if families are connected to youth ministry service efforts

- Yes, Community Work Camp helping those in our community with things such as yard work, Casseroles, etc
- Not on a regular basis. Most are just for the young people.
- on a regular basis: Homeless shelter, My Sister's Place Lodge, Soup Kitchen, on occasion- local service, ex - help at the Friary (St Anthony Shrine) in Howard County
- Most of our projects are open to families. When they happen in the context of an age specific group then it is just for that group, such as middle school or high school youth ministry meetings, but otherwise we would open it to families keeping in mind that some projects require a specific level or age to participate fully.
- Families are able to participate in Winter Relief every year. We prepare and serve a meal and spend time with the homeless at our parish or another parish every year. This summer we are doing a 30 Hour Famine retreat. Families will be involved in helping to raise money and awareness for world hunger and will be invited to close in our ending meal after the fast.
- Lunches to the Homeless
- No

- Service Saturdays, The Sharing Table
- Yes, We open up many service projects to entire families, and as a part of our Confirmation service projects each confirmandi is required to do at least 1 project with a member of their family if not their entire family.

Regarding if youth ministry resources families about justice and service.

- Mainly Middle School
- Very little, mostly through Confirmation.
- No
- There is currently no Youth Ministry in the parish but we have hired a person to establish one
- We teach social justice to our teens through both our Youth Ministry programs- LIFETEEN and EDGE as well as through our Confirmation Program where we send home materials to the parents for family catechesis. We always invite parents to serve with us through our Middle School weekly service camp each summer as well.
- Not really. At the Confirmation Orientation meeting parents are informed of the number of ways a person can serve, but we don't give much in the way of resources.
- our 8th grade Rel Ed teachers an advocate for this but has not been able to get far YET