

***St. Barnabas
Social Concerns Committee
Profile***

November 2005

Our Focus

- ◆ The Social Concerns Commission addresses social and justice issues affecting our parish and the larger community. The commission bears witness to the Gospel by promoting ways in which our parish can best respond to those in need, and by providing opportunities for personal involvement among our parishioners.

Goal and Objective

- ◆ The **goal** of the SCC is to keep informed of the different social concerns facing our parish, community and world. A few of these are...
 - ◆ ***Poverty and Hunger** - Issues of sub-standard housing, homelessness and malnutrition
 - ◆ ***Education** - Issues dealing with literacy, tuition, testing, safety.
 - ◆ ***Right to Life** - Issues such as capital punishment, euthanasia and abortion
 - ◆ ***Peace & Justice** - Issues dealing with social, cultural and/or racial conflicts.
 - ◆ **Discrimination** -- Issues dealing with race, gender, age, sexuality, employment
 - ◆ **Environment/land use** - Issues of urban sprawl, global warming, hazardous waste
 - ◆ **Bio-ethical** - Issues such as cloning, stem-cell research and/or invitro-fertilization
 - ◆ ***Health & Human Services** - Issues such as prescription drugs, adoption
 - ◆ **Globalization** - issues such as consumerism, labor issues, workforce
- ◆ Our **objective** is to be the facilitators of action in addressing these concerns.
 - ◆ *Indicates top concerns of parish as of November 2002 survey.

Today's Situation

- ◆ As of today the SCC is involved with supports several parish/community organizations...
 - ◆ **Saint Vincent DePaul** - Addressing poverty issues within our parish family and community.
 - ◆ **St. Patricks Meal Program** - We assist as part of a rotation with other church or community organizations in assisting in the preparation and serving of meals to the less fortunate.
 - ◆ **Phone/Visit Ministry** - is a communication outreach program focused on building relationships and taking care of the needs of others.
 - ◆ **Elizabeth Ministry** - is an organization for women helping women through different challenges in life.
 - ◆ **Pro-Life Committee** - Is an organization that is focused on raising awareness and support for issues such as Pro-Life, capitol punishment, euthenasia etc.

Next Steps

- ◆ In order for the parish and the SCC to continue on its journey we need...
 - ◆ Fresh Ideas
 - ◆ New Perspectives
 - ◆ Meaningful Involvement
 - ◆ In Short.... We Need You!
- ◆ We meet once a month
 - ◆ The 3rd Monday of the Month @ 7:30pm
- ◆ If you should have any questions or require additional information regarding the Social Concerns Committee please let us know.
 - ◆ Joe Filippi -- #330-468-6366

Key Advocacy Web Sites

- ◆ www.whitehouse.gov/ White House
- ◆ www.senate.gov/ Senate
- ◆ www.house.gov/ House of Representatives
- ◆ www.un.org United Nations
- ◆ www.thomas.loc.gov/ Thomas legislative information
- ◆ www.fewworld.gov/ Federal Information Network
- ◆ [//nch.ari.net/otheradvocacy.html](http://nch.ari.net/otheradvocacy.html) Advocacy Resources on the Internet
- ◆ www.politicalindex.com/index.htm National Political Index
- ◆ www.abanet.org/lawlink/home.html ABA Legal Research
- ◆ www.Pcusa.org/pcusa/pcusa.html Presbyterian Church USA
- ◆ www.commoncause.org Common cause
- ◆ www.cq.com Congressional Quarterly
- ◆ www.cbpp.org Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- ◆ www.allpolitics.com CNN/Time AllPolitics
- ◆ www.bread.org Bread for the World with hunger news and advocacy tools
- ◆ www.newslink.org A link to thousands of national and local newspapers
- ◆ www.interaction.org News from relief, development and refugee agencies
- ◆ www.networklobby.org Network - a national Catholic and Social Justice Lobby