



Archdiocese of Indianapolis - Catholic Charities
Introduction to
Parish Social Ministry

I. Meeting Structure

Below is an example of a meeting format for PSM.
(remember to have someone taking notes)

- 1) **Begin with Prayer** -
Possible resources for prayers: www.usccb.org, www.crs.org/resource-center
- 2) **Spiritual Formation** - This could be done in several ways such as having a speaker discuss a certain topic, participate in an ongoing spiritual formation series such as the USCCB's "CST101" series or the "Sacraments and Social Mission" series, or participating in a Gospel reflection and discussion. One idea in regards to a Gospel reflection is to choose a Gospel parable and discuss how it is tied into the Church's social mission. Any of these examples could be facilitated by member of the team or an invited guest.
- 3) **Discuss Old Business** - This is where there would be a recap of ministry events. It is important to remember to go beyond recapping business, but part of the process is to:
 - o Measure or evaluate the success of the event or work of the ministry
 - o Discuss which principals of CST were being lived out through the ministry
- 4) **Discuss New Business** – New Business is where the different ministries discuss upcoming events and how each of the ministries would provide support for the event. Example: The Pro-Life Ministry hosts baby showers for pregnant mothers who are in need of some extra help. Each baby shower is hosted by one of the parish ministries or groups within the parish. Examples of a hosting group could be the Youth Group or St. Vincent de Paul. Each of the ministries helps promote the event and recruit volunteers. The entire parish is invited in the process through either donating a designated baby item or praying for the mother and her child via the prayer cards have been placed in the pews. (Example adapted from Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Indianapolis)

New Business could include new project ideas or proposals to consider. This could be where the group evaluates areas for growth. Example: Is there is a need or desire for a ministry that is not being offered within the parish. If yes, what would that look like? What would the exploratory process look like? Designate volunteers of the team to pray, research, and learn more about that issue. Their job is to take the information they gathered back to the team as whole. This could lead to a Faith Formation topic.

5) End with Prayer

- 6) **Socialize** – It is important to remember to allow time to socialize with a few refreshments.