

## Office of Diocesan Pastoral Ministries

### Social Agency Coordination

#### Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise

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Within the Diocese of Boise, there often exists a fundamental disconnect between the major social justice service agencies and local parishes. While many parishioners know of Catholic Charities and Saint Vincent DePaul, most do not have a full understanding of the services they provide and how these services may impact those around them in need. An essential part of diaconal spirituality is to serve as a bridge between the spiritual and lay world. As a result, the role of the deacon is enhanced by actively encouraging diaconal involvement in connecting pastoral outreach services to those in need.

The mission of this ministry is to promote Christ's love through supporting assistance, education, and social interaction with the poor and vulnerable in our communities. A Catholic approach to ministry begins with the recognition of the dignity of the human person. Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of our faith. It is teaching founded in biblical roots, growing through the life and words of Jesus Christ, who came "to bring glad tidings to the poor liberty to captives, and recovery of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18-19), and who identified himself with "the least of these," the hungry and the stranger (cf. Matthew 25:45). Catholic social teaching is built on a commitment to the poor. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains, "To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren" (no. 1397). We are called to reach out and to build relationships of love and justice.

Our goal in this ministry is to partner with these organizations, to educate deacons and their faith communities on the resources available, encourage involvement and contribution to these organizations, and to bolster the social mission of the Church throughout Idaho.

The Pastoral Ombudsman for Social Agency Coordination will be responsible to the Coordinator of Diocesan Pastoral Ministries and work within specific Social Justice-related service agencies (Catholic Charities of Idaho and Saint Vincent DePaul of Idaho) to develop a full understanding of the scope of services, and work with parish Deacons to train them on meeting the needs of their parishioners and local community members within the scope of support of the agency they are assigned to, act as the go-between in relationships between parish Deacons and these specific agencies, and consult with these agencies and local parish Deacons on enhancing service provision provided by local parishes.

The Pastoral Ombudsman for Social Agency Coordination will train Deacons on the types of services of each social agency in order to ensure that Deacons can affect proper and accurate communications to those within each parish, and community that may need and benefit from the services provided by the social agencies. This will be accomplished by organizing training that Deacons will regularly attend to gain the aforementioned knowledge and by being available to Deacons as an ongoing resource and knowledge base.

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## **Pastoral Ombudsman for Agency Coordination**

Deacon Thomas Dominick

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### **St. Vincent de Paul Society.**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a worldwide network of volunteers dedicated to serving the poor and less fortunate. It is organized into parish conferences that serve a particular parish, which then bands together in geographical groups to support regional services. The national organization's website is located here: <https://svdpusa.org/>

Different services are offered in different regions of the state. Some of the ways different conferences help are:

- *Home visits:* Many SVdP conferences provide home visits, where members meet with families in their homes in order to provide direct assistance such as paying rent, buying medication, paying utilities, buying clothes or furniture, or helping with car repairs. Members also connect families with resources like the locations of local food pantries or dining halls. Members pray with the families when they visit and provide encouragement.
- *Thrift stores:* SVdP stores provide high quality, low-cost goods in many locations throughout Idaho.
- *Food pantries:* SVdP food pantries provide food to families in need of necessary supplies, helping individuals to stretch their limited food budgets.
- *Dining halls:* Community dining halls offer free hot meals to individuals and families in need.
- *Prescription assistance:* The agency provides assistance to individuals in locating low-cost medications to fill prescriptions written by health care professionals.
- *Reentry programs:* SVdP Reentry programs assist men and women released from prisons and jail in Idaho reintegrate into society by providing rental assistance, clothing, and transportation support, employment assistance and help to find housing, in addition to lending a friendly ear to those seeking reintegration.

In Idaho these are the conferences/regions being served and the services they provide:

**St. Vincent de Paul of Southwest Idaho** (<https://www.svdpid.org/home/>)

Serves the Treasure Valley area (Boise, Nampa, Meridian, Caldwell, Kuna), Emmett, Idaho City, and Mountain Home with the following programs:

- Thrift stores
- Home visits
- Food Pantries
- A dining hall
- Prescription assistance and
- Other outreach such a prison Reentry program, Christmas toy stores, a Thanksgiving Food Box program, and summer feeding programs.

For direct assistance in your area call the Helpline: (208) 331-2208 (Boise, Meridian, Mtn. Home) or (208) 919-2940 (Caldwell) or (208) 466-3400 (Nampa). For Prescription assistance: (208) 344-9737

**St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho located in Coeur d'Alene** (<http://stvincentdepaulcda.org/>)

Serves northern Idaho (St. Thomas and St. Pius X) with the following programs:

- A thrift store (St. Thomas)
- Home visits (St. Pius X)
- Housing (shelters and transitional, senior and disabled, group home) (St. Thomas)
- First Impressions program for those seeking work (St. Thomas)
- Art program for homeless children (St. Thomas)
- Meal kitchen with laundry and showers (St. Thomas)
- Parenting education (St. Thomas)
- Counseling (St. Thomas)
- Social services case management (St. Thomas)
- Veterans Services (St. Thomas), and
- Prison Reentry (St. Thomas)

For direct assistance in your area call the Helpline: (208) 664-3095

**St. Vincent de Paul Pocatello** (<http://www.svdppoc.com/>)

Serves the Pocatello area with the following programs:

- A thrift store
- Food pantry, and
- Outreach ministry at the store

For direct assistance in your area call the Helpline: (208) 478-2062

**St. Vincent de Paul Idaho Falls**

Serves Idaho Falls with the following programs:

- A thrift store  
[https://www.facebook.com/pg/stvincentidahofalls/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/stvincentidahofalls/about/?ref=page_internal)
- Home visits
- Prescription assistance
- Prison Reentry program

For direct assistance in your area call the Helpline: (208) 522-6280

### **St. Vincent de Paul Twin Falls**

Serves the Magic Valley area (Twin Falls and Jerome) with the following programs:

- A thrift store and
- Home visits

For direct assistance in your area call the Helpline: (208) 734-9143

### **St. Vincent de Paul Lewiston**

Serves the North Central Idaho area with the following programs:

- A thrift store
- Direct outreach is provided at the store

For direct assistance in your area call the Helpline: (208)746-7860

### **St. Vincent de Paul Moscow** ([www.stmarysparishmoscow.org/st-vincent-de-paul-society](http://www.stmarysparishmoscow.org/st-vincent-de-paul-society))

Serves the Moscow area region with the following programs:

- Home visits
- Counseling

For direct assistance in your area call the Helpline: (208) 882-4813

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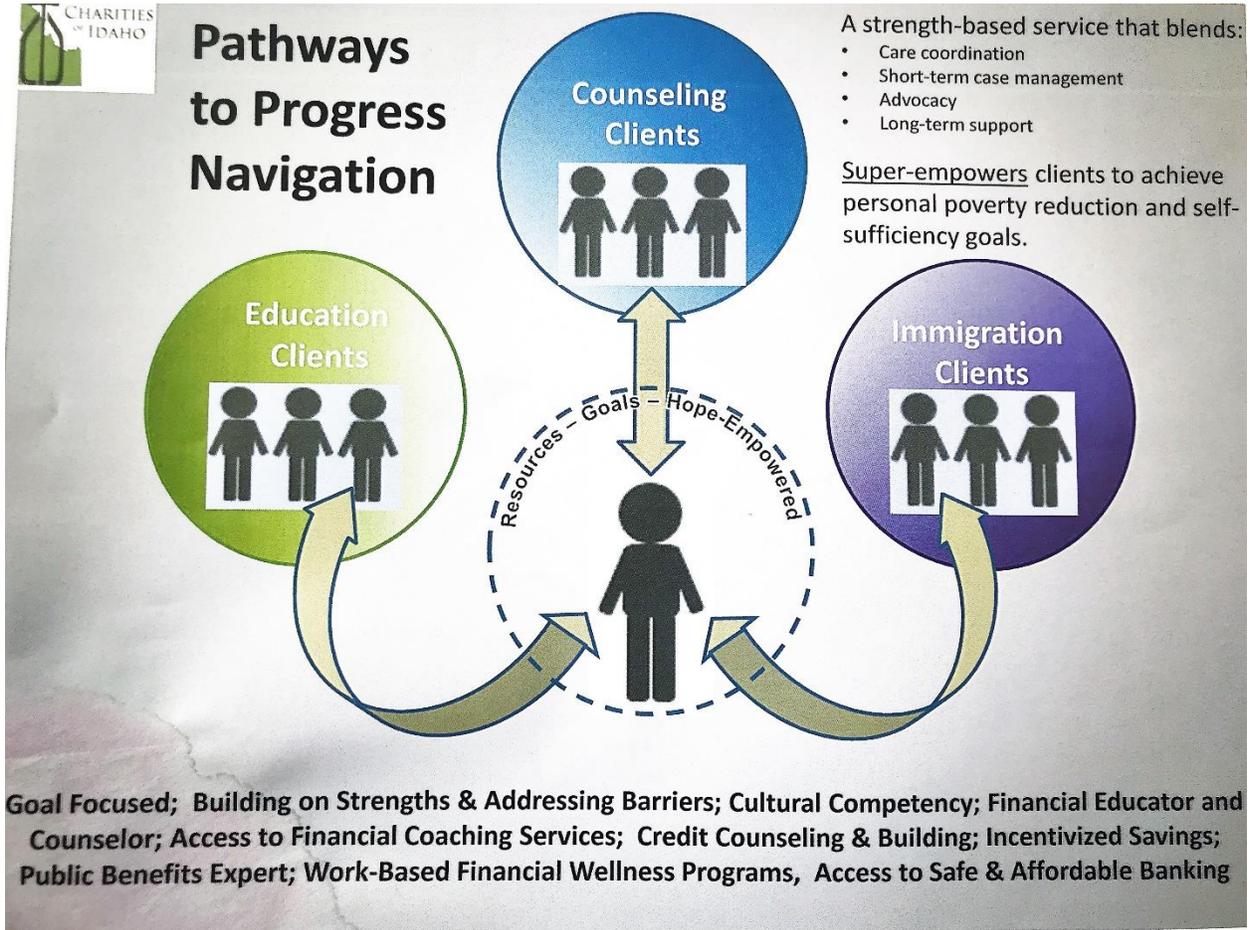
## **Catholic Charities of Idaho.**

(<https://www.ccidaho.org/>)

Catholic Charities of Idaho was organized as a separate organization by the Diocese of Boise to provide social services to the poor and marginalized in Idaho Their vision is to "commit to alleviate, reduce and end poverty for those we serve." Their mission is "the fulfillment of the Christian mandate to love and serve the poor and those in need and to promote the common good." Catholic Charities of Idaho has offices in Boise and Idaho Falls and offers:

- **Family and individual counseling and mental health services:** CCI's counseling addresses emotional and behavioral difficulties. Service is available for adults and adolescents in a variety of forms, including, individual, family, couple, and group sessions.
- **Immigration legal services:** Legal consultations and assistance on most immigration matters are available including citizenship, family petitions, and applications for victims of certain qualifying crimes, such as domestic violence.
- **Educational enrichment and skill-building:** CCI provides a variety of prevention education services that emphasize personal growth, skill-building and situational change including citizenship preparation, parenting, and abuse prevention classes and workshops, adult primary education, and fatherhood classes.
- **Financial coaching:** CCI's Pathways to Progress program provides financial education and coaching services that help families learn skills, budget, set goals, and build assets. Bridges at Work offers all of these services at selected worksites across Idaho.
- **Mentoring and youth school retention services:** Youth mentoring and support services are aimed at educating and empowering youth to promote overall well-being and enrichment.
- **Community resource referrals:** CCI offers general information and referral support, connection to community services, and resource navigation assistance to families in need.

This graphic describes the pathways that CCI clients use to discover and access services:



Descriptions of these services can be found here: (<https://www.ccidaho.org/services.html>)  
 This graphic shows the interconnectedness of the various services:



Reach out to CCI: Phone: (208) 345-6031 (Boise) or (208) 881-0740 (Idaho Falls)

## **“Seven Good Men” Training Program**

*Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. Acts of the Apostles 6:3*

Purpose: To train Idaho Deacons on the types of services of each social agency in order to ensure that Deacons can affect proper and accurate communications to those within each parish, and community that may need and benefit from the services provided by the social agencies. This will be accomplished by organizing training that Deacons will attend to gain the aforementioned knowledge and by being available to Deacons as an ongoing resource and knowledge base

Implementation: Active Deacons will attend this training as one of their “Regional In-services” in 2020 and men in formation to become deacons will receive this training as their spring 2020 March Pastoral Intensive weekend and every three years in cycle thereafter.

### Overview:

- **The foundations of Catholic social teaching and parish social ministry.**  
An introduction to the church’s social teachings and how they frame parish social ministry, this presentation uses the US Bishops framework for social ministry “Communities of Salt and Light.”
- **Taking Inventory of your parish social ministry**
- **What can Catholic Charities do for your Parish**
- **What can Saint Vincent DePaul Society do for your parish**
- **Individual Services Coordination**
- **Catholic Relief Services and Global Solidarity**