

Five Elements of Jesuit Parish Ministry

Original Text (1987)

1. Liturgical Celebration of the Sacraments
2. Evangelization
3. Collaborative Ministry
4. A Preferential Love for the Poor
5. Jesuit Charisms Rooted in the Spiritual Exercises

Another Way of Saying...

Liturgy, Worship, Community
Forming Missionary Disciples
Collaboration in Mission
Faith that Does Justice (Solidarity)
Ignatian Spirituality

What is a "Jesuit Parish"?

A parish is Jesuit if, committed to the pastoral goals and policies of the local church, it also "participates in the apostolic priorities of the Society" and in the mission plan of the Province, according to "our way of proceeding." As central to its life, the parish gathers as a community to celebrate its joys, struggles, and hopes – in the Word, in the Eucharist, and the other sacraments – in well-planned, creative, and enculturated ways. A parish becomes an evangelized and evangelizing community committed to "justice and reconciliation," and makes its popular devotions relevant to contemporary needs.

(General Congregation 34, Decree 19, #422)

Why does the Society of Jesus choose parish ministry as one of its apostolic works today?

Because the parish is where people of all stages of faith are gathered and empowered day in and day out for mission in the world. Insofar as our Society is mobile, specialized and diversified in a variety of apostolates, it also needs to be engaged in parishes where grassroots faith is expressed, nurtured and formed daily. By being present here we have much to give; we have much to receive and learn.

(Mission Statement for Jesuits in Parish Ministry, 1987)

What does the Society of Jesus have to offer?

We have much to give parish life graced as we are by our Ignatian spirituality which offers practical ways to foster personal love and companionship with Christ. Our spirituality touches not only individual hearts, but also the heart of a parish as a whole. Daily, it supports lives of service to the Church, as well as empowers lives of mission to establish the Kingdom of God now in the surrounding communities of the parish. Our spirituality gives people a way of proceeding in apostolic discernment that actually roots communal and personal decisions in a mutually professed desire to follow the Person of Christ, His mind, heart and way, in our own time. In the parish, the Society brings the energy of its most prized resource, the Spiritual Exercises, to the Body of Christ for daily use.

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