

OLOJ Social Outreach Committee Guidelines

As a Eucharistic Centered Community committed to being a Stewardship Parish, we are all focused on the stewardship principals that guide our daily lives. Our lives are gifts from God - what we do with them is our gift in return. Our time, talent and treasure should be given back with increase to the church in the same proportion that it was given to each of us. Our Parishioners have a “need to give” and doing God’s work through Social Outreach provides an opportunity for Our Lady of Joy to do just that.

In recent years, the financial challenges facing poor Parishes and Catholic Service Organizations within the Diocese of Phoenix have greatly intensified. In response to this critical development, the Committee agreed to focus on the growing unmet needs within the Diocese. These Guidelines were developed to facilitate internal deliberations in support of this committee policy. Exceptions to these guidelines require the Pastor’s review and authorization. Additionally, the Pastor reserves authority to independently direct funding as unforeseen priorities emerge over time.

The committee’s primary function is to evaluate request for financial assistance made upon the Outreach Funds at Our Lady of Joy. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Pastor, and will evaluate all requests in accordance with these Guidelines.

- The Outreach Committee’s overriding obligation is to focus on the underfunded needs of Catholic institutions/organizations serving the Diocese of Phoenix. The Committee will typically consider requests for assistance for: project materials, labor, and/or specific items supporting a needed improvement or repair, as opposed to contributions supporting an organization’s general fund.
- Funding Priorities: (not in priority order)
 - ◆ Parishes/Missions unable to afford a necessity/repair supporting their primary mission.
 - ◆ Catholic Schools unable to afford a necessity/repair that directly impacts students.
 - ◆ Select Projects (equipment & repairs) for Catholic Organizations that:
 - Support abortion alternatives and follow-up assistance.
 - Support the homeless.
 - Support the aged and/or end-of-life issues.
 - Support medical assistance for the poor.
- Organizations are typically required to identify a point of contact and fill out and submit a written assistance requests form (attached). This information is used in the Committee’s initial deliberations. Additional, more detailed, information may be requested depending on the nature of the request.
- Organizations seeking assistance may be asked to meet with the Committee and present information regarding their request and answer questions. Alternatively, depending on the circumstances, a Committee member may visit the organization to obtain additional information and/or background. Committee members will act in the role of liaison and must not be seen as an “advocate” by the requesting organization.
- The Committee as a whole will consider all assistance requests and Committee recommendations will be presented to the Pastor for concurrence prior to any award.
- Upon award approval, a committee member will follow each project to completion, document results, and advise the committee as necessary.
- The committee will develop a report annually on its contributions from Outreach Funds.