

Backgrounder: The Catholic Social Ministry Gathering



Origin: For more than 20 years the Gathering has been presented by USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development or predecessor departments serving the U.S. bishops on matters of justice, peace, poverty, etc., often with the collaboration of other national Catholic organizations.

Recent themes:

- 2015 – *To Go Forth: Encountering Christ in the Heart of the World*
- 2014 – *Becoming “a Church that is Poor and For the Poor”*
- 2013 – *Promoting Human Life and Dignity in the Year of Faith*

Participants: Roughly 500 Catholic leaders from diverse communities of the church attend CSMG each year. The traditional core of the meeting consists of full time diocesan directors responsible for peace and justice or social action matters and staff members of national organizations. Other participants include staff of parishes, state catholic conferences, national Catholic organizations, voluntary organizations and ecclesial lay movements, members of religious orders and congregations, and college and university students and staff members.

Recent Growth: The Gathering is experiencing exciting growth among a variety of emerging leaders including college and university students, members of voluntary organizations and ecclesial communities, and representatives of cultural, ethnic, and disability communities too often overlooked in invitations to leadership in the Church. In 2014 nearly 40% of CSMG attendees were participating for the first time.

Collaborating Organizations:

- Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
- Catholic Charities USA
- Catholic Climate Covenant
- Catholic Daughters of the Americas
- Catholic Relief Services
- Catholic Rural Life
- Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Death Penalty
- The Conference of Major Superiors of Men
- *JustFaith* Ministries
- Ladies of Charity, USA
- National Association of Black Catholic Administrators
- National Catholic Partnership on Disability
- National Council of Catholic Women
- Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors
- The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Voice of the Poor)
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
 - Catholic Campaign for Human Development
 - Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development
 - Department of Migration and Refugee Services
 - Secretariat of Catholic Education
 - Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church
 - Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Visit www.CatholicSocialMinistryGathering.org for further information.