

## **NORM 35**

**Norm Description:** Priests and deacons are to deliver homilies that address key contemporary social issues; offer concrete ways to live the Gospel (i.e., faith in action); and promote social justice and respect for all human life from a Catholic perspective.

**Department or Office with Primary Responsibility:** Department of Worship and Liturgical Formation

**Departments or Offices with Secondary Responsibility:** Department of Social Services, Office of Social Justice, Pastors and Deacons

**Person Submitting Plan:** Very Rev. Robert Medley

**Goal:** To increase the awareness and understanding of Catholic social teaching, with particular emphasis on contemporary social issues, among the faithful across the Diocese of Metuchen through greater and improved catechesis as delivered in homilies. By providing a stronger foundation and education about social justice, parishioners will be better equipped to apply these teachings in daily life to live in service to the Gospel.

*Note: Full implementation of norm 35 is contingent upon the existence of the Office of Social Justice. Completion of specific goals and action plans for the implementation of this norm will be addressed within a reasonable timeframe once the Office of Social Justice and its mission has been established. Also, this norm will be addressed as part of the plans for norm 57 which considers ongoing homiletics training for clergy in all areas. Specific dates for plans identified below will be determined once the Office of Social Justice is created.*

### **Objectives:**

1. Form a small committee comprised of representatives from the Departments of Worship and Liturgical Formation and Social Services, the Office of Social Justice (when created) along with several priests and deacons to develop a realistic plan to identify methods and resources to assist clergy in developing homilies that address contemporary social issues. Committee to be established within 2-3 months after the Office of Social Justice is established. A series of requirements gathering meetings will be scheduled.
2. Based on the needs and requirements identified, create a plan to develop the necessary resources and tools.
3. Consider developing a guide or workbook for all clergy that would outline the weekly Sunday readings and match them, where appropriate, with social justice themes and supporting catechesis for use in homilies. Develop a plan to create this resource.

4. Develop a communication plan to address how and through what means these resources and tools would be made available to diocesan clergy.
5. Determine budget requirements to implement the plans created.