

# The "Two Feet" of Social Ministry

- private, individual acts
- responds to immediate need
- provides direct service: food, clothing, shelter
- requires repeated actions
- directed at the effects of injustice (symptoms)
- Satisfying, non-controversial

*Homeless shelters, food shelves, clothing drives, emergency collections etc.*

**Charity**

- public, collective actions
- responds to long-term needs
- promotes social change in institutions
- resolves structural injustice
- directed at the root causes of injustice
- exciting, sometimes controversial

*Legislative advocacy,  
Influence systems change  
Parish and Community  
organizing for social  
change etc.*

**Justice**

*"Service and action, charity and justice are complementary components of parish social ministry. Neither alone is sufficient; both are essential signs of the gospel at work"*

*(U.S. Bishops Communities of Salt and Light, 1993)*