



# CODE OF CONDUCT & CHRISTIAN WITNESS STATEMENT

The mission of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is the mission of the Catholic Church, to reveal God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to all people and to teach them about the fullness of His love. “Indeed the primordial mission of the Church is to proclaim God and to be His witness before the world” (General Directory of Catechesis).

Aware then of the importance of being a witness and a Parish Leader as an extension of the Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, I commit myself to be, in word and example, the best Leader possible.

**All who serve in Catholic Parishes of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis will witness by their public behavior, actions, and words a life consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Public speech or public action contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church promotes scandal, which is a particularly grave offense when given by those who are entrusted to lead others (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2285).**

Support of this Witness Statement must be reflected in a leader’s public behavior, including:

- Believing in Jesus Christ
- Engaging in a life of prayer and worship at Sunday Mass and practicing stewardship in support of the Parish
- Practicing respect and reverence for the dignity of others
- Exercising prudence with confidential information related to Parish work
- Being an active member of his/her Church if not Catholic
- Respecting ecclesial authority

All who serve in Catholic Parishes should understand and affirm that the following are examples but not an exhaustive list of public speech or public action that are considered contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church and must be avoided during one’s leadership:

- Contracting a marriage in violation of the rules of the Catholic Church (CCC 1603; 1614; 1650; 2384).
- Living with another as husband and wife, without benefit of a valid marriage (CCC 2350; 2353; 2390; 2391).
- Conviction of a felony or a crime which involves moral turpitude (CCC 2268; 2284-5; 2353-56; 2387-89).
- Engaging in any immoral or illegal activity which sets a bad example for parishioners (e.g. illicit use of drugs, alcohol, pornography or abuse of any kind) (CCC 2284-85; 2354; 2335).
- Maintaining by word or action a public position contrary to the teaching standards, doctrines, morals, laws and norms of the Catholic Church (CCC 2030; 2032; 2044; 2072-3).

The above is not an all-inclusive listing of the implications of this Witness Statement. The Archbishop of St. Louis is the definitive authority for the interpretation of Catholic doctrine and morals.

**My signature below indicates my acknowledgment that I have read and understand this document and intend to adhere to its precepts. I further understand that this form has to be signed and returned to the Rectory Office in order for anyone in my organization to reserve a facility and/or check out a key.**

Signature

Date

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Printed Name

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Last Updated:  
9/10/2018