* an awareness of the financial limitations of some parishioners
* the ability to see social activity as part of the mission of the church
* an awareness that not all activities need to be fund raising!
* a willingness to hold ‘open door’ events (e.g. ecumenical, deanery activities)

**Moving on…** In light of your reflection on the key quotes, and the checklist, what action if any, can you take as a parish community in these changed times? Could you consider setting up a social committee just as a trial and perhaps in collaboration with a nearby parish?

You may find the generic *“Action Planning Profoma*” helpful as you plan for the future………………………..

#####  *(Please insert your own parish name here before copying for parish use)*

##### *Parishes of Hope*

*Celebrating, consolidating and securing the Mission of the Church in Doncaster Deanery; - an opportunity to deepen the faith of our Parish communities in changing times*

***“Gratitude for the past, enthusiasm for the present, hope for the future” (John Paul ll)***

##### *The Parish Social Committee*

##### *Diocese of Hallam*

##### *Doncaster Deanery (St Charles Borromeo)*

***Dean: Rev Augustine O’Reilly V.F.***

*Our Lady of Sorrows & St Francis, Armthorpe; Blessed English Martyrs, Askern; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bentley; St Alban’s, Denaby Main; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Intake; Sacred Heart, Balby; St Paul’s, Cantley; St Peter in Chains, Doncaster: St Mary’s, Edlington; English Martyrs, Mexborough; St Joseph & St Nicholas, Moorends; Christ the King, Rossington; Our Lady of the Assumption, Stainforth; St Joseph & St Teresa, Woodlands.*

***KEY QUOTES***

To live in community is not a question of option, but one of vocation. Christianity, by its very nature, demands the formation of community. Christianity cannot be conceived without relating to others, and relating to these people in love.

*(Oscar Romero “The Mission of the Church in the Midst of the Crisis in the Country” August 1979)*

We therefore welcome the call of the Congress for a more Christ-like attitude towards the poor, the powerless, the homeless, the handicapped, the deaf and the blind, the elderly and all who suffer in today’s society. The parish community should place such people at the centre of its life and concern. As the Congress Declaration stated: “In them we see the image of Christ crucified, a focus for our love and care, whose needs we must recognise and meet, and from whom we receive a living witness of Christ’s passion”.

*(The Easter People 124)*

***FOR REFLECTION***

 What do these quotes say about the quality of:-

a) pastoral care

b) social life and activities

in your church community?

If you had to score yourselves on the quality of pastoral care and social activities what would you give yourselves and why?

What do these statements mean for us in a situation where there may be fewer priests in the future?

**Social Committee**

If you are thinking of reviewing your parish social committee or planning to form a social committee, the following thoughts may help:-

Make sure you have people who have:-

* the ability to communicate with the rest of parish in as many ways as possible

(E.g. Parish Pastoral Council, bulletin, leaflets, posters, school, magazine)

* the ability to listen to rest of the parish and respond appropriately

 (What do people really want?)

* good organisational skills
* the ability to empower and enable others to be involved
* the ability to plan well in advance
* discernment to see the parish needs a range of different activities
* the ability to organise activities which cover the whole age range