

Caritas of the dioceses St.Pölten – mission statement

Our basis

The person is in the centre

Foundation for all assistance and services of Caritas St.Pölten is the biblical message and the idea of men in it: every human being as creation, in the likeness and as partner of God has an inviolable dignity. High appreciation and respect for men and their individual living situations therefore is our uppermost principle – independent of religious or political convictions, independent of nationality, ethnic affiliation, age, sex, fault, talents and abilities, weaknesses and impairments.

Caritas lives church

Caritas is as the annunciation and liturgy a basic function of church.

Caritas of the dioceses of St.Pölten – as organisation – is by virtue of the founding decree of July 4, 1959 a church institution, with an independent public legal body.

Our mandate

1. **Social services at the side of persons:** we advise, accompany and support persons in difficult living situations, with illnesses and handicaps, after disasters or catastrophes. Goal of these services is
 - to assist the persons concerned to cope with life as independently as possible (help for self-help) and
 - to protect in all phases of handicap/illnesses the quality of life and human dignity.
2. **Advocate of the weak and excluded:** We draw attention to the manifold poverty, point out societal aberrations and social injustice and we try to influence socio-political decisions in the interest of the weak and excluded.
3. **Builder of solidarity:** we sensitize, motivate and support persons who get active in parishes and schools, organise concrete help, raise funds or strengthen awareness for social issues in education.

We value

- We deliver, reflect and develop our services and assistance on the basis of our mandate, the actual state of the art of the professional disciplines in the area of conflict of individual needs and demands, the available financial resources as well as the legal and contractual frameworks.
- Caritas St.Pölten is independent of party politics.
- We avow to involve the persons who use our services in the creation and development of these services.
- We emphasize appropriate qualification of our employees and support them by goal oriented offers for their further development (continuing education, supervision,...)
- We value voluntary co workers as important pillars in the Caritas network.
- We make an effort to integrate persons with handicaps in society, the labour market and in our organisations.

- In public relations we emphasize especially sensibility for the special living situation and discrimination, de-stigmatisation and that the human dignity is secured.

Principles of our work

- We obligate ourselves in our work to high quality. To assure this we apply with QAP (quality as process) an internationally recognized method for quality development.
- We avow ourselves to a leadership style that appreciates employees, their competencies, experience and personal responsibility, involves them in development and decision processes and makes decision as transparent as possible.
- In the filling of leadership positions we aim for a balanced relationship of women and men.
- In the use of our resources we follow principles of cost effectiveness, frugality and utility.
- Services that we offer mandated by the public have to be regulated by contract and financially secure.
- Donations serve to finance ongoing assistance, quality improving measures and the development of new projects.

Caritas in the network

- We understand ourselves as **partners of public institutions, the province Lower Austria, parishes, communities and other social services.**
- In cooperation with **partners** we offer our experiences and stand up for the interest of those who use our help and services and we are part of the further development of services.
- We are involved in the Austrian and international Caritas network.
- We value the special importance of sponsors, donors, persons and institutions who support our work ideationally and/or financially.

St.Pölten, May 2005