

The Catholic Mutual Connection

Limited Use and Underutilized Buildings

Over the past few years, there has been a downward trend in the use of parish buildings and facilities. Whether due to neighborhood changes, the national priest shortage, or other issues beyond your control, limited building use has become a relevant risk issue for many parishes.

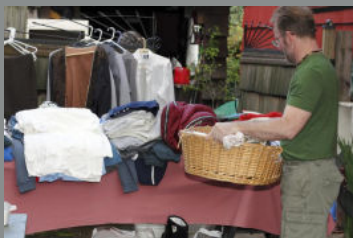
Limited use buildings include those used only for events such as weddings, or facilities used only for parish meetings. Other examples of limited use buildings include parishes with attached schools that rent gymnasium space to local community groups.



If you're welcoming people into your space but not using it regularly, it's especially critical to make sure maintenance is kept current. This [CARES document](#) provides a checklist of necessary maintenance items that should be incorporated into the care of your limited use buildings in order to reduce the risk of loss.

Catholic Mutual Group recommends reviewing this list with diocesan leadership to determine the best course of action for any underutilized buildings, including the risks associated with continuing maintenance of the building or electing to decommission it.

Safety Tip



Garage Sales, Auctions, and Thrift Stores

Summertime often means an increase in fundraiser events such as garage sales, rummage sales, and auctions. If you are planning one of these types of events, please keep in mind that donated items may increase the liability risk to your parish or school. Some of these items may be defective or could have been recalled by the manufacturer. It is important to be somewhat selective in what items you allow for resale. This [CARES document](#) provides a list of items that should not be resold or given away.

Parish thrift store traffic can increase during the summer months, as well. Consult our CARES guide, [Thrift Store Guidelines](#), for tips on managing inventory and safe product display.

Summer Property Maintenance

With school out for summer, now is the time to tackle any necessary maintenance that is difficult to complete when your buildings are fully occupied. Handling these projects early in the summer provides ample time to replace or make repairs before school starts again in the fall.

This [CARES document](#) provides maintenance checklists for each critical area of your facility, including safety equipment, kitchens, bathrooms, electrical, and much more.

On behalf of all of us at Catholic Mutual Group, we hope you have a safe and fun summer!

Connect with CMG Connect!

We are constantly updating our online trainings on CMG Connect to ensure that CMG members have the information they need to minimize their risk exposure. Please don't forget to visit [CMG Connect](#) regularly for timely new content...and please don't hesitate to share it with others who would benefit from the information.

To view this newsletter on our website, please [click here](#).

For more helpful information, please visit the Catholic Mutual Group [newsletter archives](#).

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