

What is Just Faith?

JustFaith is both a justice education process and a spiritual journey. Groups of 8-15 participants meet weekly over an 8-month period, and through books, videos, guest speakers, prayer, discussion, and hands-on experiences, are provided a tapestry of learning opportunities that emphasize and enliven the remarkable justice tradition of the Church. In addition, participants also have the privilege of becoming community with other participants and sharing a journey of faith and compassion that is both life-giving and challenging.

JustFaith was first introduced in the Joliet Diocese in 2003. Since that time, over 176 individuals have graduated from the program sponsored by 13 parishes and 1 religious community in the Diocese. Nationally, JustFaith has been offered in over 900 parishes in over 100 Dioceses.

In 2005, Justice-Walking, a justice education program for teens was also introduced in the Joliet Diocese.

Who may join JustFaith?

This is an excellent faith-formation program for those who are hungering for a deeper relationship with God. This program is for any adult who is willing to make an 8-month commitment and desires to respond to God's call in their life. You do not have to have any previous social justice knowledge or experience.

To find a JustFaith or JusticeWalking group nearby or to start one in your parish, contact:

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JustFaith is a national program, in partnership with Catholic Charities USA, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and Catholic Relief Services.

Find out more about this life-changing program at:

www.JustFaith.org

JustFAITH

Answering the Call to Transform Our Hearts and the World

"Never give in charity what is due in justice."

*Archbishop Oscar Romero
(1917-1980 Assassinated)*



JustFaith Themes

Throughout the program, three primary themes are addressed:

- **Theological/Biblical/Doctrinal:** Who is God? Who is Jesus? Who are we?
- **Social/Political:** What does the world look like today and why?
- **Given #1 and #2:** What is my role as a Christian in the world today?

The five major components of

JustFAITH

Evangelization

We serve humbly, we listen attentively, we share with sensitivity, we proclaim the Gospel in deed and word. *JustFaith* is about community. We introduce people to the person of Jesus and allow them to introduce Him to us.

Church's Mission

JustFaith focuses on Catholic Social Teaching and the social mission of the Church. Participants prepare for weekly discussions through assigned reading of stimulating and thought-provoking books, a few examples:

- "A Cloud of Witnesses" by Jim Wallis and Joyce Hollyday
- "Unexpected News" by Robert McAfee Brown
- "Gandhi the Man" by E. Easwaran
- "Doing Faith Justice" by Fred Kammer, SJ.
- "Compassion", by Henri Nouwen, Donald McNeill, and Douglas Morrison

Spiritual Formation

Integrating Scripture, personal and communal prayer, journaling and worship are critical to the formation process and a significant portion of each session is devoted to this. *JustFaith* is about a way of life where conversion and spiritual growth are fostered.

Doing Social Justice

This is about serving the person of Jesus in others. An integral part of this ministry is both charity, responding to immediate needs, and justice, actions aimed at affecting attitudes and changing social structures that deny people their dignity and rights as children of God. Through videos and two border-crossing workshops, we are introduced to the lives of real people and their struggles.

Building the Kingdom of God

We put into action what we have heard, seen, studied, prayed, and learned. We invite you to join us on this remarkable journey.

"Beneath an outward appearance of indifference in the heart of every man and woman, is a will to live in brotherhood and sisterhood and a thirst for justice and peace which is to be expanded."

Paul VI Octogesima Adveniens

Quotes from JustFaith Graduates

"JustFaith has helped me to connect worship and ministry, faith and action, prayer and understanding. It has made me see our world more clearly through the eyes of many. It has made me STOP and take a closer look, not only at the suffering and injustice faced by some of our human family, but also at their resilience and hope! It has made me look at myself, as a Christian and as an American, from many different perspectives.

I have met people I will never forget—people, face to face, at the various border crossings and people in books, some from the past and some in the present, and the people in our JustFaith group! These relationships have widened my circle of family. Through JustFaith, the plight of the poor, the immigrant, the imprisoned, the hungry, the war-torn, the voiceless, has become part of me. They have changed me. They have changed us. They have become part of our group, part of our prayers. They have given us courage not to be afraid and not to be angry, but to take that first faith-step of action, even if we can't see the end result, even if we might be taking a risk."

Concetta Smart, St. Liborius Parish in Steger, IL

7 Catholic Social Principles

- Respect the life and dignity of the human person
- Support family, community, and participation
- Respect the rights and responsibilities of all people
- Opt for the poor and vulnerable
- Respect the dignity of work and the rights of workers
- Recognize solidarity with all people
- Care for all of God's creation

For more information see:
<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/projects/socialteaching/excerpt.htm>