

Just FAITH

What is JustFaith?

Our Catholic faith and biblical tradition extend an extraordinary invitation to each of us and to our faith communities to become agents of God's compassion and healing in a wounded world. The Good News of Christ is both a comfort and a promise for the poor and, at the same time, a call to those of us who are not poor to be linked with God's vision of justice and reconciliation.

JustFaith offers an opportunity for parishioners to experience a spiritual journey into compassion. Most of us long to be a generous and compassionate people. However, the opportunities to explore this tradition in a deliberate and engaging way have largely not been available. JustFaith, now offered in hundreds of parishes across the country, provides a lively and challenging format to read, view, discuss, pray, experience and be formed by the justice tradition, which changes lives, inspires faithful witness, and transforms the world through love and service.

JustFaith meets weekly, employing books, videos, guest speakers, discussion, prayer, retreats and hands-on experiences. Participants are also afforded the privilege of becoming community with other participants and sharing a journey of faith and compassion that is both life-giving and challenging.

Do participants need to have social justice knowledge or experience?

No. People benefit from JustFaith if they have been involved in social ministry for a long time or if they are newly interested. Testimonies from around the country attest to the fact that both experienced and inexperienced participants have derived great benefit.

What does the JustFaith program entail?

JustFaith involves groups of about 10-15 people, who meet for 30 weekly sessions, two weekend retreats and four hands-on experiences. Overall, this extended justice education process that occurs through JustFaith extends over 8 months.

Does it cost anything to participate in JustFaith?

The cost of materials and resources is dependent on the number of groups in the area and the amount of donations or supplemental grants available for use. The approximate cost for the 2007-08 process is \$125 per person. Acquiring matching funds from your parish is strongly encouraged. Scholarships are available!

About Jack Jezreel

Jack Jezreel is the Founder and Director for the Office of JustFaith. He is a national speaker and justice educator. He has been involved in parish-based justice ministry for almost 20 years. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Notre Dame, spent six years in a Catholic Worker community, and has been a trainer for Catholic Charities USA since 1994. He received the Archdiocese of Louisville's Peace and Justice Award in 1995.

Des Moines Area JustFaith Coordinator

Susie Paloma

Home 515-256-1478

Cell 515-480-1872

Email spaloma@msn.com

Sample List of Resources

This is a list of books/resources that have been used in the past. The resources do change slightly from year to year.

Books

St. Francis and the Foolishness of God (Marie Dennis, Joseph Nangle, O.F.M., Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Stuart Taylor – 1993)

Shaping a New World – challenge for the 21st Century (NETWORK Education Process)

Unexpected News: Reading the Bible through Third World Eyes (Robert Brown – 1984)

Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger (Ronald J. Sider – 1997)

Grace at the Table (David Beckman and Arthur Simon – 1999)

Simpler Living, Compassionate Life (Michael Schut – 1999)

The Challenge and Spirituality of Catholic Social Teaching (Marvin Krier Mich – 2005)

Cloud of Witnesses (Jim Wallis and Joyce Hollyday – 2004)

Prayer Resources

The Fire of Peace (Pax Christi USA)

Our Prayers Rise Like Incense (Pax Christi USA)

Leader's Guide to Sharing Catholic Social Teaching (USCCB)

Videos

Marketplace Prophets

The Healing River

The Business of Hunger

The Global Banquet: Politics of Food

Arms for the Poor

Roses in December

Bangladesh: Microcredit

The Ad and the Ego

Zoned for Slavery: The Child Behind the Label

What do past participants say about JustFaith...

JustFaith has opened my eyes, my head and my heart and I will never be able to close them again. The world is so large and the need so great – why doesn't everyone see this and want to get involved and become exposed to the justice side of life? It makes life more frustrating but also richer.

This process has definitely opened my eyes to social justice issues locally and globally. As much as some of these issues have saddened me, they've also given me an appreciation and gratitude to the individuals and groups who have pledged their lives in service to those who need them the most.

JustFaith has reopened my eyes to issues of poverty, racism, the environment, and war concerns. It helped me update my thinking, awaken my drive, and raise my understanding. I feel empowered to live differently and involve myself more courageously than I have in the past. Cheryl Berg

Individually, the program heightened my awareness that Christ is closer than my next breath, and that He comes to me in a special way when I place myself (with God's Grace) among the poor and oppressed. I am also aware of the tremendous need for institutional change in our country – beyond Republicans vs. Democrats. Mike Beecher

JustFaith has had a huge impact on my life. As a newly received Catholic and relatively new to Des Moines, JustFaith has offered a great sense of community, prayer, faith and support. I have truly enjoyed and appreciated the discussion and friendships through the group. Andrea Tamisiea

I see things differently: life, consumerism, people of other races, money, the marginalized. I live simpler, and spend less. I care about and for the future. Barney Webb

JustFaith has increased my knowledge of the worldwide problems of poverty. It has also increased my knowledge of local issues. I liked the immersion experiences. JustFaith has stirred a confusion and urge to get involved.

JustFaith brings issues into direct view, raises questions that can't be ignored, and makes people think in new ways. I am certainly going to stay active in social justice – the need is to extend our reach. George Scheck

You are invited to participate in an intensive education and formation process for people who are interested in a spiritual journey into compassion.

JustFaith

Why Participate in JustFaith?

- To integrate personal spirituality and social ministry
- To gain a better understanding of the Church's social mission from Scripture, the Church's historical witness, and Catholic social teaching

Who is JustFaith For?

- People who want to learn more about the Church's social justice tradition
- People who are longing for spiritual growth
- People who are already involved in social ministry
- People who would like to discern how they can be involved
- People who have participated in the RCIA

You!

When Is It?

- If we have enough registrations, there will be four groups meeting in the Des Moines area. See the registration below for days, times and possible locations of each group. The Monday evening group will be ecumenical; based on Christian social principles.

What Is Involved?

- Weekly 2 hour meetings
- Retreats in the fall and the spring
- Four visits with people who have personally experienced injustice
- Approx. 1 hour of reading each week
- Occasional videos and guest speakers
- Cost: Suggested Donation = \$125 per person

Think It's Too Much?

- It's like taking a college course or a year-long adult education class
- It's similar to what we ask of our Confirmation candidates and RCIA participants
- It asks a lot for 8 months – but it's only 8 months. (August – April)
- It will be one of the most rewarding things you'll ever do!

How Do I Register/Get More Info?

- Contact Susie Paloma at 515-256-1478 or spaloma@msn.com
- Return the form at the bottom of this page

JustFaith Registration

Name _____
Address _____
City, Zip Code _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Please return your completed registration to:
Des Moines Area JustFaith
c/o Susie Paloma
3601 Kingman Blvd..
Des Moines, Iowa 50311

Please check ALL the meeting times you would be available for:

_____ Sun. Early Evenings, OLIH in Ankeny (5-7) _____ Tues. Evenings, St. Theresa (7-9 pm)
_____ Mon. Evenings, St. Mark's Episcopal (6-8) _____ Tues. Daytime, Catholic Pastoral Center (11-1)