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Catholic
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Taking Action Resource Guide 2011

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JustFaith Ministries
P.O. Box 221348
Louisville, KY 40252
(502) 429-0865
www.justfaith.org
info@justfaith.org

JustFaith ***Taking Action Resource Guide***

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JustFaith

Taking Action Resource Guide

General Comments

This guide provides numerous resources for continued formation and opportunities for involvement that will be helpful for both individual JustFaith graduates and groups.

This is not meant to be a comprehensive list for either topics or resources. Not all resources have been previewed but they are from good, reliable sources and/or they have been recommended by JustFaith graduates, staff or partners.

These resources are quite varied and offer different perspectives and information on a topic. When evaluating resources for possible group use, it is recommended that two or three members of the group preview and evaluate the materials and then make a recommendation to their group members about using the material.

How to Use This Document

This document is designed to be opened and used on a computer. Hundreds of electronic links are provided for organizational resources as well as the topic resources. A direct Web link is provided to most of the resources. Look for a short Web address or an underlined link with a short phrase. Examples are [Sign Up Now](#) or [Read More](#). If you are interested in a resource, simply click on the Web address provided or the direct link option, and you will be directed to a Web site with more information on that item. Efforts have been made to assure that the most current link is available. However, Web sites do change and are updated often; so you may find some links outdated. Keep this document handy for ready use because of all the great resources contained within it.

National Resources

JustFaith Ministries Programs and Opportunities

JustMatters

JustMatters is an expanding series of formation materials from JustFaith Ministries. *JustMatters* allows small groups of participants to focus on a particular current social justice topic over a period of six to eight weeks. The general format for these topic-focused modules is prayer, readings, videos/DVDs, reflection and dialogue. They also may include a guest speaker and an immersion experience where participants can have direct contact and conversation with people who are most affected by the issue being explored. *JustMatters* modules allow a group of 8-15 people to give sustained attention to a specific topic and its relationship to Catholic social teaching with special emphasis on a call to action. [Read More](#)

Engaging Spirituality

Engaging Spirituality offers daily practices for living deeply (a contemplative life) and loving broadly (a compassionate life). These practices include activities and attitudes that foster reverence such as: mindful attention to detail, recreation and rest, compassionate outreach, spiritual reading and prayerful listening. As we engage with other seekers, we become deeply aware of the wonders as well as the wounds in our daily

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communion with the world. *Engaging Spirituality* bears the hallmarks of a JustFaith process using small-groups of 8-12 individuals co-facilitated by two trained participants. Groups can register through their churches. There are 21 weekly (2 ½ hr) sessions. A multi-dimensional process is used with retreats, spiritual practices, engagement at the margins, journal-keeping, immersion experiences, spiritual reading and mutual accompaniment. [Read More](#)

JusticeWalking

Imagine a spiritually intensive process that brings adults and older teenagers together to implement Gospel practices and social teachings. *JusticeWalking* engages high school juniors and seniors in a three- to six-month experiment in Gospel-based living. Through retreats, journal writing, prayer and ritual, reflection-dialogue sessions, meeting people living at the margins and spiritual practices, *JusticeWalking* groups investigate what it means to become a prophetic community. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to engage your passion for Gospel justice with the young people in your community. [Read More](#) or contact justicewalking@justfaith.org.

College JusticeWalking

College JusticeWalking (J-Walking) is a semester-long “Discipleship Journey” that forms small communities of college students as they experiment with living the Gospel message and the social implications of our faith. Key to this process are the relationships that develop within each J-Walking community and those encountered at the margins of our society. Through prayer, retreats, reading, dialogue, and relationships, College J-Walkers broaden their circle of awareness and expose their lives to the compassionate spirit of Gospel justice. [Read More](#) or contact justicewalking@justfaith.org

GradNet and Graduate Ministry

All JustFaith graduates are added to our mailing list to receive our quarterly print newsletter *Voices* and our bi-weekly electronic note, *GradNet*. Both of these publications will help you stay connected with other graduates across the country and with JustFaith Ministries. *GradNet* includes advocacy action alerts, brief stories from graduates, prayer and reflection resources and other items of interest. If you do not start receiving *GradNet* once you have finished participating in a JustFaith program, just send a note to gradnet@justfaith.org, and you will be added to the mailing list.

JustFaith Ministries Workshops

JustFaith Ministries offers four workshops as described below. If you are interested in having one of these workshops in your area, contact the JFM office at 502-429-0865 or write to info@justfaith.org. [Read more on the website](#)

JustFaith Introductory Workshops

Through the two introductory workshops participants encounter what Scripture, social teaching and tradition reveal about the call to care for our brothers and sisters in need. “Transforming Hearts for Justice” is an inspirational three hour workshop designed for 75-100 people. “Sowing Seeds of Justice,” designed for 20-35 people, provides an overview of JustFaith Ministries programs and provides practical steps for organizing groups. Both workshops help participants discover more about the exciting 30-week, adult formation, JustFaith program that has energized Christians around the nation to love and serve the world through active and engaged social ministry efforts.

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Engaging Spirituality Co-Facilitator Training

Engaging Spirituality focuses on the practical challenges of following Jesus into the broken heart of our world. The training prepares co-facilitators to lead small groups through a 21-week spiritual intensive. Tapping into ancient and contemporary wisdom, this process inspires participants to develop prayerful patterns that keep them rooted in Gospel justice and grounded in love.

JusticeWalking Introductory Workshop

Learn how to inspire older teens to encounter the Gospel vision of justice and peace. JusticeWalking is a 12-session, immersion-based transformative program designed to empower teens to integrate Gospel justice and Catholic social teaching into their real lives. This workshop for parents, youth ministers, and potential J-Walking Coordinators will show you the power of engaging youth in the Church's prophetic ministry to the world.

National JFM Partner and Supporter Organizations

Bread for the World

Bread for the World is a partner organization. Bread is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, Bread provides help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which we live.

God's grace in Jesus Christ moves us to help our neighbors, whether they live in the next house, the next state or the next continent. Food is a basic need, and it is unjust that so many people do not have enough to eat.

We can end hunger in our time. Everyone, including our government, must do their part. With the stroke of a pen, policies are made that redirect millions of dollars and affect millions of lives. By making our voices heard in Congress, we make our nation's laws fairer and more compassionate to people in need. [Read More](#)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is a partner organization. CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of the U.S. Catholic bishops. CCHD's mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and through transformative education. The grants, economic development and education for justice programs of the Campaign, implemented in collaboration with local dioceses, are supported primarily from an annual collection (in most dioceses the weekend before Thanksgiving) in U.S. Catholic parishes. Also visit: www.usccb.org/cchd and www.povertyusa.org.

Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services is a partner organization. CRS was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States as the official international relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community. The fundamental motivating force of Catholic Relief Services is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That motivation compels the agency to alleviate human suffering, to foster justice and charity, and to enhance the development of peoples around the world. Catholic Relief Services provides assistance on the basis of need, not creed, race, or ethnicity. www.crs.org

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers live and work side-by-side with the poor and marginalized to combat poverty, provide healthcare and social services, build communities, advance human rights and share the Gospel in 27 countries. They offer a variety of volunteer, study and immersion opportunities, ranging in length from one

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week to one year. Volunteers serve with Maryknoll Missioners as they work in various parts of the world. They work with AIDS orphans, refugees and prisoners, teach or work on social development and social justice projects. For program descriptions and contact information download Maryknoll's short-term volunteer brochure at: <http://www.maryknoll.org/pdf/shortterm.pdf> [Learn more](#)

Pax Christi USA

Our most recent partner organization, *Pax Christi, USA*, began in the United States in 1972. Members of Pax Christi are united by their purpose, which is expressed in the international statutes: "to work for peace for all humankind, always witnessing to the peace of Christ." They do this through prayer, study and action. Pax Christi USA rejects war, preparations for war, and every form of violence and domination. It advocates primacy of conscience, economic and social justice, and respect for creation. Pax Christi USA commits itself to peace education and, with the help of its bishop members, promotes the gospel imperative of peacemaking as a priority in the Catholic Church in the United States. <http://paxchristiusa.org/>

With support from:

Catholic Charities USA

Catholic Charities USA is a supporting organization. CCUSA's members—more than 1,700 local Catholic Charities agencies and institutions nationwide—provide help and create hope for nearly 8 million people a year regardless of religious, social, or economic backgrounds. For almost 300 years, Catholic Charities agencies have worked to reduce poverty by providing many vital services in their communities, ranging from health care and job training to food and housing. In 2010, Catholic Charities USA celebrates its centennial anniversary. www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org

Denominational Groups and Networks

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United Methodist Committee on Relief

This arm of the United Methodist Church presents practical solutions to the problems of hunger, human rights and world peace by aiding refugees, providing relief in disaster areas, and confronting the challenge of world hunger and poverty. [Read More](#)

Baptist World Aid

BWAid works through Baptist communities around the world, mitigating and suffering and providing long-range help for persons in need, regardless of religion, nationality, tribe or class. BWAid also helps poor people avoid situations of famine and malnourishment and improves their capacity for self-help and wage earning. [Read More](#)

The Episcopal Church

Episcopal Relief and Development

Episcopal Relief and Development provides emergency assistance in times of disaster, rebuilds devastated communities and offers long-term program development solutions to fight poverty. [Read More](#)

The Episcopal Public Policy Network

This office of the Episcopal Church is a national grassroots network of Episcopalians who call and write their members of congress and the administration to advocate positions of the Church. Members of the EPPN receive policy alerts updating them on what's happening in Washington, the Church's position on public policies, and techniques and information on contacting their government leaders. One of its outreach programs is ONE Episcopalian, a grassroots partnership between the Episcopal Church and the ONE Campaign to rally Episcopalians—ONE by ONE—to the cause of ending extreme poverty in our world. See Information about the Millennium Campaign above. [Read More](#)

Episcopal Peace Fellowship

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF) is a national organization connecting all who seek a deliberate response to injustice and violence and want to pray, study and take action for justice and peace in our communities, our church, and the world. Their call is "to do justice, dismantle violence, and strive to be peacemakers." [Read More](#)

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—Division for Church in Society

The Division for Church in Society is the justice arm of the ELCA. Through an extensive network of emergency disaster response, social ministry, education, public policy and corporate advocacy, ELCA members address the needs of God's world through works of service, justice, and peace. [Read More](#)

Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief works in overseas development and relief on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Lutheran Church. [Read More](#)

Mennonite Central Committee

The Mennonite Central Committee is the relief and development arm of the North American Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches. Founded in 1920, MCC has over 700 volunteers in around 50 developing countries involved in food relief, agriculture, health and education and social services. [Read More](#)

Presbyterian Church (USA)

The Presbyterian Hunger Program

The PHP recognizes that members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) must stand for justice in those arenas where the voices of the poor are not heard. It supports organizations and coalitions which advocate for public policies that provide food for poor and hungry people and empower their self-development. The PHP offers the fund, Food and Faith: Food Justice for All. [Read More](#)

Enough for Everyone

The four projects of Enough For Everyone seek to address fair trade, sweatshops, debt and credit, and energy efficiency. These projects are tools by which congregations can respond to global economic realities from the perspective of Christian faith. Many already are responding in a variety of creative ways [Read More](#)

Living Waters for the World

Living Waters for the World seeks to save communities from illness and disease by providing clean water. This project of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has installed water purification units in Mexico, Honduras, Haiti, and Belize. They hope dramatically to increase the scope of their project in the coming years. [Read More](#)

Presbyterian Peacemaking Program

For more than 25 years the PPP of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has been helping the church grow in its commitment and witness to peacemaking. It provides a variety of resources and has developed events and programs that assist the church as it responds to the gospel calling "to seek peace and pursue it." Its work includes conferences, workshops, and seminars, leadership development and support, and young adult peacemaking leadership development. [Read More](#)

Church World Service

CWS is a coalition of 36 Protestant, Anglican, and Orthodox communions in the U.S. cooperating world-wide in programs of long-term development, emergency response and assistance to refugees. CWS is perhaps best known among the anti-hunger activists for sponsoring the annual 2,000 CROP WALKS throughout the U.S. that have been raising funds and awareness to fight hunger for more than 30 years. [Read More](#)

National Council of Churches in Christ

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The NCC is a leader of the movement for Christian ecumenical cooperation. The NCC works for peace and justice in the United States, addressing issues ranging from poverty and racism, to the environment and family ministries. [Read More](#)

Mission Co-Workers

Mission co-workers are mature adults who wish to live out their call to Jesus Christ in a variety of settings around the world. Their call to service includes a commitment to partnership and mutuality in the work they perform in support of the overall mission of the PCUSA. [Read More](#)

Love, INC.

[Love Inc.](#) is a national ministry currently operating in 30 states. The mission of Love INC is carried out by more than 8,000 churches in over 144 affiliates across the United States. The congregations and community partners that make up each Love INC affiliate are addressing serious unmet needs in their local areas.

As a Christian organization, our actions are rooted in prayer and compassion.

Action Opportunities

Bread for the World

Offering of Letters

Bread for the World members write personal letters and send other personalized communications to their representatives in Congress. Each year, Bread for the World invites churches and groups across the country to take up an Offering of Letters to Congress on an issue important to hungry people. People place these letters in the offering plates during church services, prayerfully offering them to God before sending them to Congress. This outpouring of concern sends a powerful message to our political leaders and helps us move closer to our goal of ending hunger. [Read More](#)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Catholic Campaign for Human Development - Annual Appeal

As a people of faith, CCHD believes that poverty can be overcome by building community. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development Annual Appeal (that occurs in most parishes the Sunday before Thanksgiving) provides an opportunity for all U.S. Catholics to act on their faith and to help build more economically just communities. Parishioners can help obtain free materials from the national CCHD office to help promote the annual appeal in their parish. They can also contribute to the annual appeal and engage in the activities of those organizations receiving funding from CCHD. [Read More](#)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) – Poverty USA Campaign

CCHD offers a variety of ways in which you can become involved in the effort to identify and work on long-term solutions to poverty in the United States. Visit this highly interactive Web site to learn what you don't know about poverty in the United States. The interactive education and action opportunities assist all Americans with learning more and finding specific action opportunities. [Read More](#)

Poverty Awareness Month (January)

To bring attention to the forgotten “state” of poverty, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has designated January as Poverty in America Awareness Month. During this special month of observance, CCHD devotes its efforts to heightening the nation's understanding of the breadth and depth of the problems of

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poverty in the United States by updating the statistics at its <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/povertyusa/povfacts.shtml> web site; encouraging the editorial media to focus on poverty; educating the public to be sensitive to the needs of those in poverty and to treat poor people with respect; and, holding activities in Catholic schools and public settings to make sure all Americans know what life is like for those in poverty and in some years, releasing a new public opinion survey. You can help promote Poverty in America Awareness Month. [Read More.](#)

Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award

This award is given annually to a faith-filled Catholic young adult (ages 18-30) who is a model to others in addressing the root causes of poverty and injustice in the United States. The award is bestowed at the annual bishops' meeting each November. Nominate a young adult in your community before the July 31 deadline using the form linked here. [Read More.](#)

Catholic Relief Services Opportunities

Catholic Relief Services Annual Appeal

The Catholic Relief Services Appeal is an annual collection that reflects the generosity of the U.S. Catholic community in response to the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world. Contributions from this appeal are distributed to four Catholic agencies internationally noted for their mission to uphold the dignity of the human person: Catholic Relief Services, Migration and Refugee Services, Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development of the USCCB, and the Holy Father's Relief Fund. A parish committee can take responsibility for organizing the promotion of this collection as a global solidarity education opportunity. [Read More](#)

Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade

The daily decisions of consumers can make a real, positive difference in the world. Catholic Relief Services offers several different ways to help build an economy for everyone. The CRS Fair Trade network guarantees fair wages to disadvantaged artisans, farmers and workers. It also provides the technical and financial assistance that poor people so desperately need but so rarely get in the conventional trading system. There are several ways to get involved in Fair Trade and promote trading relationships that reflect Catholic social teaching:

- *Work of Human Hands* features thousands of beautiful handcrafted items from dozens of countries around the world. When you host a consignment sale in your church or parish, school or office, you offer members of your community the opportunity to buy beautiful items for their homes and to give gifts that give hope. These sales are great community builders and opportunities to share information about global solidarity.
- Serve coffee that serves others. CRS provides direct assistance to coffee farmers in several countries in Latin America and supports family farmers globally by promoting Fair Trade here in the United States. Fair Trade is the only approach to coffee that *guarantees* farmers a fair price for their coffee and builds stable, long-term relationships based on mutual respect.
- Chocolate fundraisers help you *Raise Money Right*. Fundraising is about more than dollars. It's about bringing your community together to support worthy projects that improve our lives. Your fundraiser can have twice the impact when you *Raise Money Right*. A CRS chocolate fundraiser helps raise funds for your local community while helping cocoa farmers around the world have a better life.

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- Pay it forward. Every time you purchase Fair Trade coffee, chocolate or handcrafts through the CRS Fair Trade Program, a percentage of your purchase goes to the CRS Fair Trade Fund to help expand the Fair Trade model. Twice a year, CRS recycles fund resources into “on the ground” grants to help farmers and artisans participate in the Fair Trade system and “in the marketplace” grants to build awareness and participation in the Fair Trade movement here in the United States. Your community can even apply for funds! Just Faith graduates in Miami, for example, have received support to travel to Haiti to learn about the struggles of coffee farmers and implement action plans to market the coffee back home.

To find out more about any of these projects, please [Read More](#) or look for CRS Fair Trade on Facebook!

Foods Resource Bank

CRS is a member of the Foods Resource Bank, a Christian, non-profit ecumenical organization committed to fighting hunger overseas. FRB engages communities in the U.S. to raise money and awareness through the FRB community growing project model. Farmers and non-farmers alike enjoy the opportunity to connect with each other and work on a project that can help people whom they may never meet. Money raised through FRB growing projects can be designated to support CRS’ agriculture programs overseas. For more information and to learn how to get involved, visit <http://www.foodsresourcebank.org>.

Catholic Relief Services’ Food Fast

Food Fast is Catholic Relief Services’ 24-hour hunger awareness program for Catholic youth (ages 13-18). Focusing on global poverty and hunger, Food Fast offers a journey of solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas by living out our Catholic faith. Grounded in Catholic social teaching, Food Fast teaches youth about issues faced by their peers in the developing world; encourages youth to take action on behalf of the poor and hungry; and calls youth to share their perspectives and knowledge about our world with their community to create lasting change in our world. To organize a Food Fast, and to order free materials, visit www.foodfast.org.

Catholic Relief Services’ Operation Rice Bowl

Operation Rice Bowl (ORB) is Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten solidarity program. The program incorporates the traditional practices of Lent and invites participants to **pray** as a community, **fast** in solidarity with those who are hungry, **give** concrete assistance to those most in need, while they **learn** about the joys and challenges in the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world. Just as we celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays, Catholics in the U.S. can use Operation Rice Bowl throughout Lent as a way to “break bread” together with family and loved ones. Operation Rice Bowl offers a variety of materials, for use by the individual, family, classroom, and parish. 75% of contributions to Operation Rice Bowl support Catholic Relief Services’ development projects overseas and Lenten education activities in the United States. 25% of contributions remain in dioceses in the U.S. to fund local hunger and poverty alleviation programs. All materials are available free of charge in both English and Spanish language versions. [Read More](#)

CRS/USCCB Initiatives

CRS is promoting several initiatives to address issues of injustice. Consider implementing or participating in one of these initiatives in your diocese: Catholics Confront Global Poverty ([Read More](#)); Justice for Immigrants ([Read More](#)); Catholic Campaign for Peace in the Holy Land ([Read More](#)) or form an Advocacy Committee. For more information contact at 1-866-608-5978, email advocacy@crs.org or [Read More](#).

Pax Christi USA Opportunities

The ideal way to engage in the work of Pax Christi is to consider forming a Pax Christi group at their church or parish after they finish their JFM program. With over 50 partners around the world in Pax Christi International (www.paxchristi.net), Pax Christi USA is working to create a world that reflects the Peace of Christ. They

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believe that this work begins in personal life and extends to communities of reflection and action to transform structures of society, so that all people everywhere may live in a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world. Pax Christi has a national network of over 300 local groups seeking to create a world rooted in gospel peace and justice—in parishes, on campuses, in high schools, as part of religious communities, and elsewhere. Whether as individual members or as part of a local group, PCUSA has a variety of resources organized around the call to prayer, study and action which is at the center of Christian vocation. These resources include:

- A free organizing toolbox filled with resources for new groups, including membership brochures, newsletters, prayer cards, and up to 12 other free resources
- A bi-monthly hard-copy membership newsletter
- A free Prayer-Study-Action email service, with “Prayer-Study-Action e-Bulletins” (PSA’s, electronic resources for individuals and groups to engage through prayer, study and action on important issues); “The Monthly e-Update” (a once-a-month electronic digest with quick links to still relevant PSA’s, recent news articles, important announcements, and more); electronic reflections for Advent and Lent; and “Special Alerts” (important announcements on upcoming events, urgent action opportunities, brand new resources, and more)
- Discounted reflection booklets for Advent and Lent
- An introductory process booklet for new local groups (to be published in Spring 2011)
- Free speakers/trainers/facilitators from the national office

Catholic Charities USA Opportunities

Catholic Charities Volunteer Opportunities

Over 230,000 people volunteer at Catholic Charities agencies. Volunteers are critical to our ability to reduce poverty in America. Contact your local Catholic Charities agency today to find out how you can serve your local community. To find your local agency, [Read More](#).

Catholic Charities USA: Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America

This campaign is a multi-faceted approach to alleviating poverty in the United States. The goals include: reduce poverty in the United States by 50% by the year 2020; improve public policies that strengthen and support families; educate policymakers and the public about the struggles of those living in poverty; engage those who are most impacted by government policies to be active. You can join the campaign to reduce poverty and endorse the campaign at [Read More](#).

Catholic Charities USA Parish Social Ministry Professional Interest Section Membership

The Parish Social Ministry (PSM) Section of Catholic Charities USA is an affinity group for people in parishes, dioceses and Catholic Charities agencies who are serving those in need and working for justice as a way to express their Catholic faith. The PSM Section serves as a forum for the sharing of best practices, for group problem solving, and as a resource for Catholic social teaching materials, training, and formation tools that build capacity and community. To join, contact Rachel Lustig at rlustig@catholiccharitiesusa.org.

Centennial Gathering

In 2010, Catholic Charities USA will commemorate its centennial anniversary. Catholic Charities USA’s centennial activities will celebrate members’ work to bring dignity and respect to all people and to advocate the broader community to live a life of justice and social concern. The centennial is an opportunity to talk to the whole country about the mission, history, and future of CCUSA and our fight against poverty. The celebration of the centennial year includes a National Catholic Charities Sunday on September 26, 2010. [Read More](#)

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Action Alert Networks

Many JustFaith graduates want to influence national policy by communicating regularly with their legislators. However, it is a daunting task to be knowledgeable of the issues as they unfold from week to week in Congress. Several networks provide updates that include background and other information to help participants remain current on evolving legislation and the potential impact of the proposed legislation. Members of a continuing JustFaith group could share responsibilities for monitoring various action-alert networks and share their findings at group meetings.

Diocesan Legislative Networks

Frequently, the social ministry department within the diocese will have a legislative advocacy program. As part of this program, it may publish action alerts that cover state and national legislative issues.

Statewide Catholic Conferences

Catholic Conferences are organizations at the state level led by the bishops within the state and usually coordinated through diocesan staff. The Conferences work with the state legislature, the governor, and state agencies, advocating for laws and policies that reflect Gospel values and the social teachings of the Church. They also do federal advocacy in concert with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Ask your diocese for more information on the Catholic Conference in your state. [Read More](#)

Catholic Relief Services Advocacy Network

CRS promotes awareness and advocacy of international social justice issues by working with local dioceses and other Catholic networks to promote more just and socially responsible policies and practices at home and abroad. Through Catholics Confront Global Poverty, CRS and USCCB provide the resources for individuals to advocate in support of our brothers and sisters worldwide on issues such as increasing and improving U.S. international assistance, promoting peace initiatives, debt relief, climate change, and migration. For more information, visit [Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#) or [click here](#) to sign up.

Catholic Charities USA: Grassroots Advocacy Network

Catholic Charities USA brings 100 years of compassion to the advocacy forum convening others in this work from a position of direct service, national respect, authentic commitment and love of all persons. Join your voice to Catholic Charities USA by endorsing our Campaign to Reduce Poverty in American and taking action on our legislative alerts. [Read More](#)

Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development (JPHD)

This department of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides resources on Catholic social teaching and sends legislative action alerts and periodic issue updates by e-mail. These alerts and issue updates apply Catholic social teaching to major contemporary domestic and international issues that have significant moral and human dimensions, advocate effectively for the poor and vulnerable, promote genuine justice and peace in the public policy arena; and build the capacity of the Church (national and diocesan) to act effectively in defense of human life, human dignity, human rights, and the pursuit of justice and peace. [Read More](#)

Bread for the World

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Bread for the World members write personal letters and emails to Congress. We also meet with our representatives in Congress. Working through our churches, campuses, and other organizations, we engage more people in advocacy. Each year, Bread for the World invites churches

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across the country to take up a nationwide Offering of Letters to Congress on an issue that is important to hungry people.

Bread for the World works in a bipartisan way. It enjoys the support of many different church bodies. Bread for the World collaborates with other organizations to build the political commitment needed to overcome hunger and poverty. For example, Bread for the World is a founding partner in Bono's ONE Campaign. [Read More](#)

Network

This organization, founded by Catholic women religious, was created to educate, lobby and organize to influence federal legislation that affects the common good with particular concern for people who are poor. Members have access to a legislation action process that provides a fast and easy method to communicate with a legislator on issues and to comprehensive background information on the issues. [Read More](#)

Pax Christi USA

This national Catholic peace movement has a legislative advocacy network that provides regular action alerts by email. This group strives to create a peaceful world by exploring, articulating and witnessing to the call of Christian nonviolence. [Read More](#)

Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)

FOR has a legislative advocacy network that provides regular action alerts by email. This is the largest and oldest interfaith peace organization in the United States. It seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, peace and justice. [Read More](#)

Conference/Course Opportunities

Social Action Summer Institute – July 10-13, 2011

This institute is offered each summer by The Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors and cosponsored by JustFaith Ministries. It contains workshops on Catholic social teaching, social ministry and current social action issues. Costs are kept to a minimum by holding the institute on college campuses. Social Action Summer Institute – July 10-13, New Orleans, LA [Read More](#)

Catholic Social Ministry Gathering – February 13-16, 2011

Every February, diocesan directors, agency and parish staff, and Catholics from around the country come together at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the meeting is to learn more about the church's social mission, enhance advocacy skills, and hear about current legislative issues that affect the poor and vulnerable. Every year participants go to Capitol Hill, where they bring to decision-makers a cohesive message about promoting peace and pursuing justice for those who are poor and vulnerable. The meeting in 2011 starts on Sunday, February 13, in the late afternoon and ends at noon on Wednesday, February 16. JustFaith Ministries staff members find this to be a great meeting, and we hope many graduates of JustFaith Ministries programs will attend. [Read More](#)

Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Life Seminar

This seminar, offered by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, provides an opportunity for dialogue on Catholic social teaching, economic life and current economic forces at work in society. Designed for groups of 100 or more participants, the seminar includes the use of reflective processes, interactive activities, and dialogue with low-income community leaders. A modified version for smaller groups will be incorporated in a JustMatters module on Economic Development which is expected to be available late 2010. [Read More](#)

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Building Global Solidarity and International Justice

Catholic Relief Services offers a skills building workshop on how to build, step-by-step, a parish ministry team on global solidarity and international justice and peace. Contact your CRS diocesan director or Tom Ulrich, CRS National Office (410-951-7469) or email tulrich@crs.org.

Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministry Regional Trainings

A Parish Social Ministry Regional Training is a weekend-long conference that builds support and capacity for social ministry by assisting parishioners in understanding and acting on the Catholic social mission. Each Regional Training contains: theological grounding in the Catholic social mission, a framework for social ministry based upon the U.S. Conference of Bishops' Statement, *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*, workshops to build capacity for social ministry, and prayer and liturgy. To find the Parish Social Ministry Regional Training nearest you, contact Tina Baldera at tbaldera@catholiccharitiesusa.org.

Bread for the World Workshops

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Bread's field organizers and experienced activists are available to make presentations on hunger-related issues at churches and parishes. These sessions include a call to do the work of justice through: advocating public policy; providing information about how to influence important legislation in Congress related to poverty and hunger; studying the status of hunger issues nationally and internationally; and, disseminating information on Bread for the World's current Offering of Letters campaign. Find out about the [Workshop Nearest You](#) or contact a [Local Organizer](#) for more information.

Bread for the World Lobby Day June 14, 2010

Each summer hundreds of Bread members come to Washington, D.C. to learn about an important hunger issue and public policy initiatives that are designed to address it. The event culminates in Lobby Day, in which Bread members visit their legislators on Capitol Hill and advocate for more just policies related to hunger and poverty. [Read More](#)

Moving from Formation to Action

This CRS workshop is for those who have gone through the JustFaith process. This workshop attempts to develop leaders in social ministry and provide a specific response to the question, "Now what am I supposed to do?" It focuses on how to become organizers of ministry, not only doers of it, by exploring topics such as recruitment, strategic planning, evaluation and accountability, molding ministry teams, and research action. Ideally, this workshop should be offered throughout the diocese. For more information or to schedule training, contact Tom Ulrich at tulrich@crs.org.

Preaching the Just Word

The Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University offers retreat/workshops that help priests and other ministers refresh their knowledge of Scripture and Catholic social teaching, enabling them to preach the "Just Word of God" more effectively. They also offer a weekend format for deacons and spouses and others who preach. A two- to five-day format could be designed with convocation presentations and a focus and discernment on local issues. [Read More](#)

Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service

Franciscan-founded Pace e Bene offers workshops, trainings and retreats in the spirituality and practice of nonviolent peacemaking. Its largest program, *From Violence to Wholeness* (FVTW), is a formation process that strengthens participants' abilities to be nonviolent peacemakers in everyday life, in churches, in communities

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and in movements for social change. *Nurturing Cultures of Peace* helps participants articulate their longing for a peaceable way of life and reflects on ways they are already promoting a peaceable culture in their daily life and work. For more information, contact Ken Preston at kenpreston@paceebene.org, 510-268-8765 or www.paceebene.org.

Structured Programs

Catholic Network of Volunteer Service (CNVS)

CNVS fosters and promotes full-time national and international service opportunities for people of all backgrounds, ages and skills. Each year CNVS distributes its annual RESPONSE directory of opportunities to serve the poor and marginalized in one of 200 Christian volunteer and mission programs. RESPONSE is distributed free of charge to individuals interested in service and to parishes and organizations that promote volunteer and mission service. [Read More](#)

Frontiers of Justice

Catholic Relief Services, in partnership with the [National Catholic Educational Association's](#) (NCEA) Secondary Schools Department, invites Catholic high school teachers to visit CRS projects around the world. Participants will learn about CRS field programs, begin to build solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas, and create resources that raise awareness about global justice. Participants gain first-hand knowledge of a developing country and will work together with CRS to develop educational strategies. [Read More](#)

Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC)

IVC is a national service organization with regional programs in major metropolitan areas across the country. IVC addresses society's greatest social needs through a corps of experienced, skilled and committed men and women aged 50 years and greater, who are seeking ways to give back to their communities. An Ignatian Volunteer's skills and experience are matched to needs of partner social service agencies. IVC provides spiritual support to volunteers, helping them extract the meaning of their service and sustain them throughout their service. [Read More](#) or call 410-752-4686.

Young Adult Volunteers (YAV)

Young Adult Volunteers, organized by the Presbyterian Church USA, experience a year of developing Christian community through spiritual formation and mission service and learning. The program is for young adults (19 to 30 years of age.) The YAV program has [16 sites](#) in the United States and abroad and requires a commitment of one academic year. Young Adult Volunteers serve in communities of need. [Read More](#)

Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC)

Based in four core values—social justice, simple living, community, and spirituality—the Jesuit Volunteer Corps offers women and men an opportunity to work full-time for justice and peace. Jesuit Volunteers are called to the mission of serving the poor directly. They work for and with people who are homeless, unemployed, refugees, people with AIDS, the elderly, street youth, abused women and children, the mentally ill and the developmentally disabled. More than 250 grassroots organizations across the world count on Jesuit Volunteers to provide essential services. [Read More](#)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers tangible assistance to those in need on a person-to-person basis. This aid may take the form of intervention, consultation, or often through direct or in-kind service. The Society recognizes that it must assume a role of advocacy for those who are defenseless or voiceless. Some 12 million persons are helped annually by Vincentians in the United States. To connect with a local council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, [Read More](#).

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Peoples' Peace Initiative

Coordinated by Pax Christi USA, the Peoples' Peace Initiative is a collaborative endeavor of Catholic organizations to engage parishes and other faith communities in reflecting on the challenges for Catholic peacemaking in the 21st century. The project seeks to invigorate the work of justice and peace at the local level. A small group-process book with Scripture, essays and discussion questions, as well as a feedback mechanism for gathering input for the drafting of the peace document is available. [Read More](#)

Cross Cultural Immersion and Retreat in Mexico

The Cuernavaca Center for Intercultural Dialogue on Development (CCIDD) offers immersion experiences of 10-14 days. Their mission is to provide opportunities for groups like JustFaith to encounter the presence of God in the struggle for justice in the Americas and to empower participants to work for social transformation. Consider organizing your JustFaith group to go together to this program of "reverse evangelization"! [Read More](#)

BorderLinks

BorderLinks provides experiential education that raises awareness and inspires action around global politics and economics. As a bi-national organization, BorderLinks brings people together to build bridges of solidarity across North and Latin American borders and promote intercultural understanding and respect. They focus on issues of immigration, community formation, sustainable development, and social justice in the borderlands between Mexico, the U.S., and beyond. [Read More](#)

Developing Hearts that Yearn for Justice

This ecumenical group (Transformational World Opportunities) organizes reasonably priced conferences in Tijuana, Mexico every two years. The experience is a blend of prayer, encounters with the poor and speakers from various faith traditions. Participants stay at the Casa del Migrante, a temporary home for migrants, which gives participants a chance to share meals and stories with the people most affected by immigration between the United States and Mexico. [Read More](#)

Alternative News/Views

There are some newspapers and magazines that offer an alternative view to those usually presented in the popular media. Two of these publications are the *National Catholic Reporter* and *Sojourners*. Many of their articles are available on the Internet. There are also Web sites that provide an alternative view of the news and in-depth commentary on current events.

Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development

This department of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offers resources on national and international justice issues, as well as legislative information and ways to take action on these issues. It also offers an electronic legislative advocacy network. [Read More](#)

Center of Concern

This organization offers moral vision and provides effective leadership in the struggle to end hunger, poverty, environmental decline and injustice in the United States and around the world. Its helps to answer: What are the root causes of human suffering in the world today? How can we change the system to increase social justice and offer hope? [Read More](#)

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Education for Justice

Sponsored by The Center of Concern, this is a membership Web site that provides access to regular updates that arrive by email. It offers print-ready resources which foster knowledge of Catholic social teaching and connections to current social justice issues and world events. [Read More](#)

National Catholic Reporter (NCR)

This is a print and Web news source that stands as one of the few, if not the only truly independent, journalistic outlet for Catholics and others who struggle with the complex moral and societal issues of the day. *NCR* is a religious news source with worldly interests; and though a large amount of its reporting deals with issues regarding the Catholic Church, an equal amount of its coverage is a marriage of the religious, political and social forces shaping public policies and institutions. [Read More](#)

Friends Committee on National Legislation

This Quaker lobbying group advocates for social and economic justice, peace and good government. Its online monthly magazine is *The Washington Newsletter*. [Read More](#)

Sojourners

Rooted in the solid ground of prophetic biblical tradition, this site and magazine reflect a progressive Christian voice that preaches not political correctness but compassion, community and commitment. [Read More](#)

Woodstock Theological Center

This center engages in theological and ethical reflection on topics of social, economic, business, scientific, cultural, religious and political importance. It collaborates with the business community, government, religious groups, universities, other research centers and the media. [Read More](#)

8th Day Center for Justice

This organization of religious communities of men and women is grounded in the hope of the Scriptures and Christian faith tradition. It collaborates in the struggle to provide a critical alternative voice to the systems that oppress the human community and environment and to work for structural changes that will hasten the arrival of a more just world. [Read More](#)

OneWorld.net

This Web site provides international perspectives on global issues gathered from its partners worldwide: nongovernmental organizations, development-oriented news services, foundations and research institutions (including Bread for the World Institute). The OneWorld U.S. edition seeks to provide balanced and accurate coverage, identify sources, and provide access to original documents through links to partner websites. [Read More](#)

Community Organizing Groups

Direct Action and Research Training (DART)

The DART Network includes 22 grassroots community organizations spread throughout six states. Each DART affiliate organization is a group of local faith-based congregations committed to building a powerful, diverse, multi-issued and democratically run organization working for greater justice in their communities. [Read More](#)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)

CCHD is the largest private funder of self-help community organizing programs for poor people in the United States and a significant funder of economic development projects in low-income neighborhoods. By helping the poor to participate in the decisions and actions that affect their lives, CCHD empowers them to move beyond

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poverty. CCHD has a grant program specifically targeted toward community organizing, including congregation based community organizing, and economic development projects. JustFaith graduates can join or volunteer to work with these groups or support their efforts in other ways [Read More](#)

Gamaliel Foundation

Located in eighteen states, the Gamaliel Foundation is a network of interfaith, interracial, multi-issue, grassroots organizations working together to create a more just and democratic society. These networks allow ordinary people to effectively participate in the political, environmental, social and economic decisions affecting their lives. [Read More](#)

Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF)

IAF is in 21 states and works to build organizations whose primary purpose is “power” – defined as “the ability to act” – and whose chief product is social change. They continue to practice the ongoing attempt to make life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness everyday realities for more and more Americans. [Read More](#)

National People's Action (NPA)

Working in 21 states, NPA builds the power of neighborhood residents through issue-based organizing and direct action. NPA crosses geographic boundaries that separate neighborhoods and finds national solutions to local issues. [Read More](#)

People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO)

PICO brings people together to strengthen families and improve communities. With more than 1,000 religious congregations, schools and neighborhood institutions and one million families working in fifteen states and 150 cities and towns, PICO is one of the largest grassroots community efforts in the United States. [Read More](#)

Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ)

Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) is a network of people of faith that educates, organizes and mobilizes religious communities on issues and campaigns that will improve wages, benefits and conditions for workers, and give voice to workers, especially low-wage workers. [Read More](#)

Resources by Topic

The following section includes resources on twenty social ministry topics. This list is not exhaustive, but it provides a good beginning. Resources include Web sites, books, videos, study guides and booklets, as well as information on where to access these materials. These resources are selected from reliable and sound organizations, or they have been recommended by JustFaith graduates. However, JustFaith Ministries has not reviewed all of these resources. It is recommended that groups have one or two individuals preview the selected materials prior to choosing the item for group viewing, discussion or study. (See Table of Contents on page 1 for a listing of categories.)

Capital Punishment

Prison Reform: Church of the Second Chance

JustFaith Ministries offers the JustMatters module, *Prison Reform: Church of the Second Chance*. This six-session module engages the issue of prison reform from many angles including: what people of faith have to say about punishment and justice, common myths and misconceptions about prisons and the corrections, concepts of rehabilitation and restoration as well as prison “profiteering,” and excessive sentences and capital punishment. [Read More](#)

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Dismas Ministry

Dismas Ministry is a growing national Catholic prison outreach, currently in 368 prisons and 29 states. Its major focus is to foster individual and group faith experiences among Catholic inmates. It provides free Scripture and faith materials to assist in their spiritual rehabilitation. Without this free service, chaplains and prison ministries find it difficult to respond to the needs of the Catholic inmates. Dismas Ministry is interested in fostering the growth of small faith groups behind bars and seeks ways to collaborate with small faith groups on the outside of prison walls in this process. www.dismasministry.org/

Breaking the Cycle of Violence: A Death Penalty Packet

This issue-focused packet from Pax Christi USA contains educational information about relevant Catholic social teaching on the death penalty, information on the consistent life ethic, a prayer service, a sample letter to the editor, action suggestions and a list of resources from other organizations. [Read More](#)

Crime and Punishment: Is Justice Being Served?

This booklet from the National Issues Forum addresses the following questions: What priorities should the criminal justice system have? How do citizens promote safety while protecting individual rights? This guide breaks the issue of crime and punishment down to some fundamental public policy perspectives or approaches. A Catholic supplement is included with these materials. [Read More](#)

Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has a national campaign to end the death penalty and has partnered with the Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Death Penalty. The USCCB has a statement, *A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death* and a video. The campaign web site has a printable brochure that summarizes the issues of the campaign and lists what each of us can do to support the campaign. Go to www.usccb.org/deathpenalty.

Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000

In this 64 page booklet, the bishops address the profound legal and political questions as well as the moral and religious issues of capital punishment. [Read More](#)

Catholics Against the Death Penalty

This group promotes greater awareness of Church teachings that characterize capital punishment as unnecessary, inappropriate and unacceptable in today's world. [Read More](#)

Death Penalty Focus

This member-based organization is made up of people who come to this issue from many different perspectives – religious, moral, economic, legal, political, social and personal – but who share a common view that capital punishment is unnecessary and inappropriate in our society. [Read More](#)

Death Penalty Information Center

The Death Penalty Information Center serves the media and the public with analysis and information on issues concerning capital punishment. It prepares in-depth reports, issues press releases, conducts briefings for journalists, and serves as a resource to those working on this issue. [Read More](#)

National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

This organization is dedicated to the abolition of the death penalty using a multifaceted approach that includes public education, moral challenges, legal advocacy and grassroots mobilization. [Read More](#)

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Prisoner Visitation and Support

This volunteer visitation program to federal and military prisoners throughout the U.S. offers friendship and a listening ear to help prisoners prepare to assume a useful place in society. [Read More](#)

Catholic Social Teaching

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

This book serves as a tool to inspire and guide the faithful who are faced with daily moral and pastoral challenges. [Read More](#)

In the Footsteps of Jesus from U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

This DVD/video offers a study guide which outlines the seven themes of Catholic social teaching. [Read More](#)

Leader's Guide to Sharing Catholic Social Teaching by U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

In three sessions, the guide helps leaders integrate Catholic social teachings into formational activities and engages children, youth, and adults to act in both charitable service and action for justice. [Read More](#)

The Moral Measure of the Economy by Chuck Collins and Mary Wright (2007)

In this clear and concise book, the authors draw on moral principles to evaluate our economy and lay out practical steps toward establishing an economy “as if people mattered.” [Read More](#)

Lazarus at the Table: Catholics and Social Justice by Bernard F. Evans (2006)

This book looks at how Catholic social teaching can be used to address contemporary social issues. This book is specifically for lay Catholics who are engaged in parish social ministry. [Read More](#)

Opting for the Poor: Energies for Social Transformation by Peter J. Henriot (2004)

This booklet uses the Church’s rich heritage of Catholic social teaching to encourage us to opt for the poor. It discusses how to break out of passivity and paralysis and discover the divine energies moving in society that help us to enter into compassionate justice. [Read More](#)

Shaping the Tradition, Sharing the Future from Catholic Campaign for Human Development

This 28-page booklet is the first of a series of five study guides highlighting the seven basic themes of Catholic social teaching. The booklet contains selected scripture readings, reflections, focus questions and suggested group actions. [Read More](#)

Transforming Our World – Our Catholic Faith in Action online at www.usccb.org/campus

This clearinghouse of resources and best practices can help older teens, young adults and those who work with them to understand and act on the Church’s social teachings. The site includes materials for retreats and integration of service projects, videos, podcasts, and dynamic learning activities. The Church’s social doctrine is presented in clear and engaging ways. Local ideas are welcome!

Children, Youth and Parenting

Ending Poverty in Community (EPIC): A Toolkit for Young Advocates (High School)

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From Catholic Campaign for Human Development

This toolkit is an interactive, interdisciplinary curriculum for youth ministry programs and high school classrooms. The lessons introduce participants to the growing situation of poverty in the United States and to steps they can be taken to work *with* the poor in eliminating the root causes of poverty today. The curriculum comprises six lessons with classroom-ready handouts, warm-up exercises and reflection activities that reinforce student learning and inspire a faith response. [Read More](#)

Poverty USA: Education Center from Catholic Campaign for Human Development

This K-12 curriculum helps raise youth awareness of poverty in the United States and promotes a continuing commitment to social justice. The lesson plans are designed to help engage students in a poverty awareness campaign. [Read More](#)

The Faithful Citizenship Web Site for Young Catholics

Exciting, new, youth-friendly resources on this Web site include: e-postcards with images and messages, an interactive "Are You a Faithful Citizen?" quiz, poster, and youth prayer ideas. Use this Web site to reach out to young Catholics in your parish. [Read More](#)

Multi-Media Youth Arts Contest

This annual contest, sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), is for Catholics in grades 7-12. Schools and parishes use contest lesson plans to engage students in learning about the root causes of poverty and how CCHD-funded groups of low-income persons are living witnesses of Catholic social teaching. Students interact with a funded group and then use an art form (video, song, storytelling, drawing, etc.) to become educators of their peers and communities about what they have earned. [Read More](#)

Helping Hungry People: A Sunday School Curriculum

Helping Hungry People is a five-week Bread for the World curriculum that helps elementary-age students learn about the Christian call to help people in need. They will engage in a variety of ways to help people who are hungry, through prayer, providing food for a food pantry, collecting money to give to an organization fighting poverty, and writing letters to their members of Congress. [Read More and Download](#) a free copy.

Making Hunger History

This newly-revised, multi-session curriculum from Bread for the World connects children and youth to some of the root causes of domestic and global hunger. *Making Hunger History* is available for children grades 4-6 and youth grades 7-9. Complete with different games and activities, *Making Hunger History* will impact your younger population and help them think differently about the Christian call to end hunger. [Read More and Download](#) a free copy.

Anne E. Neuberger, Children's Author

Published by 23rd Publications, Anne E. Neuberger has written several books on working with children with issues of spirituality and justice. [Read More](#)

Parenting for Peace and Justice

Numerous resources are available at the Parenting for Peace and Justice Web site that is part of the Institute for Peace and Justice. IPJ has also just completed its new six-session program "Peacemaking and the Powers" designed for church groups and youth groups. [Read More](#)

Covering Kids and Families

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This organization works to connect uninsured children and their families to available health care coverage through state Medicaid and SCHIP programs. Visit their site for more information on participating in outreach and enrollment to uninsured children and families. [Read More](#)

Creating a Healthcare System for All Our Children: Prayer Tent

Resources to reflect, pray and act for justice for children. Join others in addressing the needs of children without health insurance. This is a six-week program, the prayer tent and bulletin inserts create a space where family and friends can reflect on and discuss the need for a healthcare system that serves all of our nation's children. [Read More](#)

Justice and Service Ideas for Ministry with Young Teens by Joe Grant

This book contains twenty-one strategies, activities and exercises that challenge younger people to live out their Gospel call to serve others by building a more just society. [Read More](#)

The Kid's Guide to Social Action; How to Solve the Social Problems You Choose and Turn Creative Thinking Into Positive Action by Barbara Lewis (1998)

This 212-page book is designed to show young people how they can be a force for positive change. It includes step-by-step instructions for letter writing, speechmaking, fundraising and more. Ideal for schools, and youth organizations. Available through local bookstores.

The Institute for Peace and Justice

This Seattle-based organization acts for justice in the world. IPJC is sponsored by sixteen religious communities and collaborates with Catholic, ecumenical, interfaith and other organizations in carrying out this mission to live out of a shared Christian faith tradition, recognizes and respects the dignity of all persons and all creation. They offer a Parenting for Peace and Justice program. [Read More](#)

Living Simply with Children: A Voluntary Simplicity Guide by Marie Sherlock

This 287-page book offers a realistic blueprint for zeroing in on the pleasures of family life, including how to find more time to be with your kids and how to focus on "good stuff" with less stuff and environmentally friendly practices. [Read More](#)

Rethinking Globalization: Teaching for Justice in an Unjust World

Edited by Bill Bigelow and Bob Peterson

This book is the best single-volume source for teaching strategies that will help students make sense of an increasingly complicated world. *Rethinking Globalization* alerts readers to the challenges we face—from child labor to sweatshops, from global warming to destruction of the rainforests—and also spotlights the courage and creativity of people working to set things right. Available in local bookstores.

Kids with Courage: True Stories about Young People Making a Difference by Barbara A. Lewis

This book tells the stories of kids who made a difference in their neighborhood, community, or the world by helping in such areas as crime, life-saving, and the environment. Available through local bookstores.

Beyond Leaf Raking: Learning to Serve/Serving to Learn by Peter Benson and Eugene Roehlkepartain

This book shows how to integrate service learning into youth ministry with practical checklists, worksheets, guidelines and evaluation tools to measure the impact of service on youth. Available through local bookstores.

Activities for Catholic Social Teaching: A Resource Guide for Teachers and Youth Ministers

By James McGinnis This 220-page resource guide for high school teachers and youth ministers offers 32 activities focusing on justice and charity, the common good, the right to life, prejudice and sexism, racism,

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poverty, peace, work and the environment. These activities can stand on their own or supplement any student text on Catholic social teaching. [Read More](#)

If Only Today You Knew...The Things That Make for Peace for Christian Elementary Schools & Religious Education K-8 by Jame McGinnis This 160-page resource for religious educators on "peacemaking in post-9/11 America" challenges students to put the Gospel call to peace into practice at a critical moment in human history. Divided into two sections – "Images of Peace and the Pledge of Nonviolence" and "Responding to the Violence of Terrorism & War" – these insightful units provide reflection and activities on the themes of peacemaking, children's fears, terrorists and violence. [Read More](#)

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF)

CDF is the nation's leading advocacy group for children's social issues that champions policies that will lift children out of poverty, protect them from abuse and neglect, and ensure their access to health care, quality education, and a moral and spiritual foundation. [Read More](#)

Me to We: Finding Meaning in a Material World by Craig Kielburger and Marc Kielburger

This book shows that one person can make a difference and that we can find meaning in our lives and our world by reaching out to others. Authors Marc Kielburger and Craig Kielburger, founders of Free the Children, uncovered this philosophy through their work in more than 50 of the world's richest and poorest countries. Available in local bookstores.

Free the Children Web Site

Free The Children is the world's largest network of children helping children through education, with more than one million youth involved in 45 countries. The primary goals of the organization are to free children from poverty and exploitation and to free young people from the notion that they are powerless to effect positive change in the world. [Read More](#)

One Hen by Katie Smith Milway

This is the story of a boy from Ghana who gets a loan to buy one hen and then goes on to grow a business and make loans to his community. The final pages of *One Hen* explain the microloan system and include a list of relevant organizations for children to explore. [Read More](#)

Church/Parish Based Social Ministry

New Wineskins

This new JustMatters module focuses on forming Mission Based Communities (MBCs) and addresses the longing many of us feel to "do more" with our lives and to "be more" – to be known and challenged at deeper levels or in different ways than we experience in our church or family; to pray together and reflect on our lives in light of Scripture and our Catholic tradition; to struggle and rejoice at life's ups and downs with other committed Christians. Participants will explore the following four touchstones of these MBCs: making a commitment to intentional community; identifying a mission that is centered on the poor and vulnerable; praying on a regular basis, especially for the needs of the world and each other; and together engaging in ongoing spiritual formation. [Read more](#) or email info@justfaith.org for more information.

Journey to Justice from Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Many JustFaith graduates have experienced the JustFaith version of the Journey to Justice process offered by CCHD. There is a two-and-a-half day Journey to Justice retreat experience that introduces a community to

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Catholic social teaching and social ministry. Information is available through the local CCHD diocesan director or through Donna Grimes in the national CCHD Office, 202-541-3372.

My Lord and My God: Engaging Catholics in Social Ministry by Jeff Korgen (2006)

This book contains stories of social ministry successes and best practices to make the life-giving work of social ministry exactly that. It has an extraordinary compilation of life-changing, effective strategies for engaging parishioners in the Church's social-mission, community organizing, formation and reverse missions.

www.paulistpress.com

Parish Social Ministry by Tom Ulrich (2001)

Whether looking to build upon or simply start a concerted social ministry outreach, this guidebook poses all the questions and provides answers to help your parish move forward. [Read More](#)

Becoming a Justice Seeking Congregation: Responding to God's Justice Initiative by William K.

McElvaney. Based on sound biblical, theological, and liturgical grounding, this book offers practical strategies from McElvaney's ministry and from the experiences of others addressing justice issues. Idealism and realism are combined in a "rubber hits the road" local church discernment and discovery. [Read More](#)

Communities of Salt and Light from U.S. Catholic Bishops

This statement is for parish leaders seeking to strengthen parish social ministry. It presents seven elements of the social mission of parishes as a framework for planning and assessing that ministry. [Read More](#)

Becoming a Community of Salt and Light by Peggy Prevoznik Heins

This eight-session study guide provides a foundation in the Church's social teaching, promotes leadership development among parishioners, and affirms social ministry as a constitutive element of parish life.

[Read More](#)

Love Beyond Measure: Spirituality of Nonviolence by Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB

This contains deep insights on the spirituality of nonviolence and begins with the essay, "Doorway to Peace." It includes five sessions to help readers reflectively and prayerfully digest the essay's insights and challenges. It has been used as a preparation for organizing a Social Ministry Committee. [Read More](#)

Citizenship

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

This statement from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on the civic responsibilities of Catholics continues to be a useful tool reminding Catholics of their obligation to be active and informed citizens, bringing their commitment to human life and dignity and their concern for the poor and vulnerable to public life.

Available in English and Spanish. [Read More](#)

The Rising of Bread for the World

In the 1970s, Arthur Simon, founder of Bread for the World, served as a Lutheran pastor in New York's Lower East Side. He brought together Catholics and Protestants in an organized effort to urge Congress to address the root causes of hunger. This 168-page book tells the surprising story of how God uses ordinary people to make an extraordinary difference in the lives of hungry people. [Purchase](#) a copy

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Advocacy 101: Citizen Action Guide (Bread for the World)

Confronting a problem like world hunger can seem overwhelming. What can individuals do? As people of faith and conscience, we can and should remind leaders of their responsibilities to their people and offer constructive alternatives. This free four-page pamphlet will take you step-by-step through the process of becoming an effective advocate for poor and hungry people. [Order](#) a copy

Bread for the World's 2011 Offering of Letters Kit

A 32-page handbook and an eight-minute video show how urging Congress to make changes in tax policies will enable low-income workers to provide for their families. Background information, Bible study, and worship resources are included. [Read More](#) about the Offering of Letters or purchase and Offering of Letters kit.

The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith & Politics in a Post-Religious Right America by Jim Wallis

Wallis asks the question: What would it take to end extreme poverty, to address climate change, to create peace? His response is a look at a wider and deeper vision of faith and values that is emerging. Wallis sees it as a renewal of faith – a great awakening – that combines personal faith with social justice. Available through local bookstores.

God's Politics: When the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It by Jim Wallis

This book is a call to make our religious communities and our government more accountable to the key values of the prophetic, religious tradition. Our biblical and religious traditions call us to make our churches and our government more pro-justice, pro-peace, pro-environment, pro-equality, pro-consistent ethic of life. Available through local bookstores.

Faith Works: How Faith Based Organizations Are Changing Lives, Neighborhoods, and America by Jim Wallis (2001)

This book presents stories of people who have acted on their faith to change the world. It shows how ordinary people of faith can turn love into action and transform their beliefs and good intentions into a catalyst for changing the world. Available through local bookstores.

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good

This is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the fullness of the Catholic social tradition in the public square. Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good works to promote the necessary conditions for a culture of life that reverences the dignity of the human person over greed, materialism and the politics of division. [Read More](#)

Center on Budget and Policies Priorities

This is a non-partisan research organization and policy institute that conducts research and analysis on a range of government policies and priorities, with an emphasis on those affecting low- and moderate-income people. [Read More](#)

Coalition on Human Needs

Coalition on Human Needs is an alliance of national organizations working together to promote public policies which address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations. [Read More](#)

By the People: Americans' Role in the World

This resource is from the National Issues Forum. Powerful and prosperous yet neither entirely secure nor

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universally liked, Americans are uncertain about their role in the world in the 21st century. This booklet presents four perspectives on the question of what kind of world we want for our children and grandchildren. [Read More](#)

What Citizens Can Do: A Public Way to Act

This booklet from The National Issues Forum is a collection of a dozen stories about everyday people who have changed the way politics is practiced in their towns. They share a commitment to the idea that in a democracy, citizens take responsibility for dealing with community problems. [Purchase a copy.](#)

Community Organizing

Bread for the World's Regional Offices

Bread for the World has eight regional offices around the nation whose purpose is to help local communities organize around issues of hunger and poverty. [Contact](#) your regional organizer to find out how you can involve your church in the local community and national effort to end hunger and poverty. Community

Organizing Toolbox: A Funder's Guide to Community Organizing by Larry Parachini and Sally Covington (2001) This community organizing toolbox provides information on the basics of community organizing, from the history of organizing, to how organizing groups work, to the various types of community organizations and their accomplishments. It also provides guidance to individuals, groups and foundations considering funding of organizing efforts. [Read More](#)

Faith-based Community Organizing: The State of the Field by Mark R. Warren and Richard L. Wood (2001) This booklet reports the findings of a national survey of all local faith-based community organizations that were active in the United States in 1999. The survey and report were done by Interfaith Funders, a national network of faith-based funders committed to advancing social change and economic justice through support for grassroots community organizing and community economic development. [Read More](#)

Faith in Action: Religion, Race, and Democratic Organizing in America by Richard L. Wood (2002)

The author spent several years working with the faith-based Pacific Institute for Community Organization (PICO) and the race-based Center for Third World Organizing. His book compares their activist techniques and achievements and shows how community activism and religious organizations can help build a more just and democratic future for all Americans. Available through local bookstores.

Going Public: An Inside Story of Disrupting Politics as Usual by Michael Gecan (2004)

Gecan shows the incredible power people can have over their own lives and their own government when they stand together in creative ways. He also looks at the importance of building meaningful public relationships. Available through local bookstores.

Doing Justice: Congregations and Community Organizing by Dennis A Jacobsen (2001)

This book is an introduction to congregation-based community organizing rooted in the day-to-day struggles and hopes of urban ministry. Jacobsen weaves biblical warrants for community organizing into concrete strategies for achieving justice in the public arena. [Read More](#)

Environment

God's Creation Cries for Justice - Climate Change: Impact and Response

This is a JustFaith Ministries module from the JustMatters program. It focuses on what people of faith can do in response to the environmental crises affecting the most vulnerable people in the world. Developed in conjunction with the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, this module focuses on prudence, poverty and the common good, as well as Catholic social teaching, to look at how climate change will impact the poor at home and abroad. The eight-week program will draw out arguments for and against action and to demonstrate—in a faithful and scientific way—the hazards to poor people of doing nothing. The general format is prayer, readings, videos, speakers and dialogue culminating in a call to engaged action. [Read More](#)

Interfaith Power and Light

The mission of Interfaith Power & Light is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. This campaign intends to protect the earth's ecosystems, safeguard the health of all Creation, and ensure sufficient, sustainable energy for all. They are organized by state affiliates and welcome local congregations and faith communities as participants. Their work is both educational and advocacy, and supports policy change at the local, state, and national levels. [Read More](#)

Environmental Justice Program

This program of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops seeks to educate and motivate Catholics to a deeper reverence and respect for God's creation and to engage churches and dioceses in activities aimed at dealing with environmental problems—including climate change—particularly as they affect the poor. It is a resource for Catholic dioceses and state Catholic conferences, and, through them, Catholic parishes. Key among its initiatives are the Climate Change and Children's Health and the Environment Initiatives. [Read More](#)

Global Climate Change

At its core, global climate change is not about economic policy or political theory. It is about the future of God's creation, about our stewardship of the "earth that is the Lord's" and our responsibility to those who come after. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is a member of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, which offers many resources for parishes, schools and concerned individuals, notably a [Catholic Climate Covenant](#) and Faithful Stewards of God's Creation: a Catholic resource for Environmental Justice and Climate Change. [Read More](#)

The Water Front

Residents of Highland Park, Michigan, known as the birthplace of the auto-industry, have received water bills as high as \$10,000; they have had their water turned off, their homes foreclosed, and are struggling to keep water, a basic human right, from becoming privatized. The story touches on the very essence of our democratic system and is an unnerving indication of what is in store for residents around the world facing their own water struggles. [Read More](#)

Food and Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread edited by Michael Schut

This book explores basic issues related to food: its sacramental character, its connections to health, the demise of the family farm, the human and ecological impacts of industrial agribusiness, and genetically modified foods. It includes reflection questions and prayers so that it can be used as a four- or six-session guide. Available through local bookstores.

Faith Encounters the Ecological Crisis

This JustMatters module identifies ways in which we are already living beyond the biocapacity of the planet and challenges participants to identify elements of a spirituality for living through the ecological

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crisis. During the eight sessions of this module, participants will identify ways to live with a rich and vibrant Earth community still intact, still able to support life. [Read More](#)

The Official Earth Day Guide to Planet Repair by Denis Hayes (2002)

This book describes the problem of global warming, considers our available energy sources, offers dozens of ways to reduce energy use, and provides action steps to affect the world's energy use and to help change policy. Available through local bookstores.

Holy Ground: A Resource on Faith and the Environment

This Sojourners study guide explores environmental racism, eco-feminism and the population explosion. It is a four-part study guide that includes practical reflections and models for action. [Read More](#)

The Great Work: Our Way into the Future by Thomas Berry (2000)

“The difficulty is that with the rise of the modern sciences we began to think of the universe as a collection of objects rather than a communion of subjects,” says Berry in this book in which he envisions how the human population can work to redeem the destruction we have wrought upon the planet. This optimistic call to action is easily accessible to all readers. Available through local bookstores.

The Christian Future and the Fate of the Earth by Thomas Berry, edited by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim (2009)

Printed posthumously, this book consolidates Berry's reflections on Christianity and the ecological crisis. Available through local bookstores.

Ecology at the Heart of Faith by Denis Edwards (2007)

Using the doctrine of Christ's Resurrection, Denis Edwards shows that the “Big Bang” theory is compatible with Christian faith. In language accessible to the general reader, Edwards tears down the walls between Christian spirituality, the Biblical prophetic tradition, poetry and science. Available through local bookstores.

Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness by Erik Reece (2006).

In this first person account of the devastation of Appalachia as the result of strip mining, Reece shares his insights on the complicated problem of mountaintop removal. Available through local bookstores.

Thirst

This 62-minute documentary offers a piercing look at the global corporate drive to control and profit from water—from bottles to tap. Is water part of a shared "commons", a human right for all people? Or is it a commodity to be bought, sold, and traded in a global marketplace? It tells the stories of communities in Bolivia, India, and the United States that are asking these fundamental questions, as water becomes the most valuable global resource of the 21st Century. A companion book is now also available. [Read More](#)

The Awakening Universe

In 15 minutes, Neal Rogin uses awe-inspiring images and a sweeping original musical score to show how science, spirit and ancient indigenous wisdom are now all converging to reveal that we stand in the very heart of that which created us. The DVD begins with the origins of the universe and sweeps through time and space to planet Earth in the 21st century. [Read More](#)

Green America (Formerly Co-Op America)

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This group provides the economic strategies, organizing power and practical tools for businesses and individuals to address today's social and environmental problems. [Read More](#)

Earth Charter

This group's mission is to establish a sound, ethical foundation to help build a sustainable world based on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. [Read More](#)

Earth Ministry

This group engages individuals and congregations in knowing God more fully through deepening relationships with all of God's creation. [Read More](#)

Environmental Defense

This organization offers news items on what is happening to the environment, including the actions of various companies. It is an informative site for any environmental topic. [Read More](#)

Friends of the Earth International

This group campaigns on environmental and social issues and works to promote sustainable practices. [Read More](#)

Heartwood

This organization is dedicated to the health and well being of the native forest of the Central Hardwood region in the United States and its interdependent plant, animal and human communities. [Read More](#)

National Catholic Rural Life Conference

This organization communicates a Catholic perspective on farming communities and urges public action on rural life and environmental issues. Its mission is to support and empower rural people and bring hope to rural living. [Read More](#)

World Resources Institute

This is an environmental think-tank that provides extensive information about the earth's ecosystems as well as practical solutions to global environmental problems. [Read More](#)

Global Solidarity

Crossing Borders: Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey

JustFaith Ministries offers the JustMatters module, *Crossing Borders: Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey*. This eight-session module provides participants a chance to find common ground and to discover more about themselves, our God and the millions of people who are on the move in every part of the world. The module is an introductory study of many issues surrounding the topic of migration/immigration. [Read More](#)

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Catholics Confront Global Poverty

The USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development and Catholic Relief Services have joined together to promote a two-year initiative to engage one million Catholics in an effort to reduce global poverty through learning and action. This initiative engages Catholics to advocate for U.S. policies that foster economic and social development for people living in poverty throughout the world. [Read More](#)

Catholic Campaign for Peace in the Holy Land

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops launched a national campaign on peace in the Holy Land. Many resources are now available through this campaign for parishioners to use. [Read More](#)

Called to Global Solidarity

This newly revised resource manual is designed for parishes and other organizations that seek to live out the Holy Father's call to solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout the world. [Read More](#)

Getting Ready to Come Back: Advocacy Guide for Mission Teams

Getting Ready to Come Back, a resource from Bread for the World, will help short-term mission teams traveling internationally to understand how political, social, and economic systems contribute to hunger and poverty. Tools throughout this resource help teams prepare for their trip, reflect on their experiences, and take action once back home—all with the goal of making a long-term impact by helping address the causes of hunger and poverty. [Read More, Purchase, or Download](#) a free copy

The Cuernavaca Center for Intercultural Dialogue on Development

CCIDD works to spread the ideals of social justice by educating and exposing Americans and Canadians to the realities of life for poor and hungry people in Southern Mexico and offers immersion experiences of 10-14 days. Their mission is to provide opportunities for groups like JustFaith to encounter the presence of God in the struggle for justice in the Americas and to empower participants to work for social transformation. Consider organizing your JustFaith group to go together! [Read More](#)

Center for Global Development

This is an independent, not-for-profit think tank that works to reduce global poverty and inequality by encouraging policy change in the U.S. and other rich countries through rigorous research and active engagement with the policy community. [Read More](#)

Partners in Health (PIH)

At its root, the mission of PIH is both medical and moral. It is based on solidarity, rather than charity alone. When a person in Peru, or Siberia, or rural Haiti falls ill, PIH uses all of the means at their disposal to make them well—from pressuring drug manufacturers, to lobbying policy makers, to providing medical care and social services. [Read More](#)

Agricultural Missions

Agricultural Missions, Inc. is an ecumenical organization that accompanies rural peoples in their efforts to address the structural causes of impoverishment and injustice in their communities. Founded in 1930, the ministry of Agricultural Missions is an expression of the churches' commitment to the fulfillment of the Gospel's promises of "abundant life" for all. [Read More](#)

Cross-Cultural Solutions

This is one of the nation's leading volunteer organizations in the United States and sends over 1,000 volunteers overseas every year. Short and long-term volunteer placements are available in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. [Read More](#)

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Globalization and Catholic Social Thought: Present Crisis, Future Hope Edited by John Coleman and William Ryan

The book assesses the meaning of globalization and the capacity of Catholic social thought to understand, reform and guide globalization. [Read More](#)

Globalization, Spirituality, and Justice by Fr. Daniel Groody (2007)

This book offers an inspiring vision of justice as an integral part of Christian spirituality in our complex, globalized world. It draws on the conviction that faith and spirituality have a role in the struggle to achieve a more just social order. [Read More](#)

A Call to Solidarity with Africa, 2001

This 24-page statement from U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops describes the problems in Africa, why Americans should answer the call to solidarity with Africa, and what we can do with and for our African brothers and sisters. [Read More](#)

The True Cost of Low Prices: The Violence of Globalization by Vincent A. Gallagher (2006)

Low prices that benefit first-world consumers often put the poor at even greater risk. Topics addressed include the nature of globalization; how structural adjustment programs work; the use of slave labor; the needs of workers, especially women, for health care, adequate food, and freedom from abuse; and the violence that comes from unregulated work environments. [Read More](#)

The Dividing Wall

Meet families and farmers whose lives have been devastated by Israel's separation wall. Be inspired by Israelis and Palestinians who are working for a future of bridges instead of walls. This DVD from the Mennonite Central Committee explores the humanitarian, social and political impact of the Israeli-built "security fence." The study guide includes advocacy suggestions. [Read More](#)

Faith Beyond Borders: Doing Justice in a Dangerous World by Don Mosely. The author uses stories from his 30-years of global justice work to issue an action call for Christians to live out the teachings of Jesus, no matter where they take us or what they require us to do. [Read More](#)

Beyond Our Differences

The film calls upon key religious leaders and politicians to tackle the toughest and most complex issues in the modern age (war, poverty, weapons, environmental degradation, starvation, etc.), and share what inspires them. [Read More](#)

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder (2004)

This book narrates the quest of Dr. Paul Farmer to serve the poorest of Haiti and his efforts to change world health policy on the treatment of tuberculosis and AIDS. Available through bookstores.

The Uses of Haiti by Paul Farmer (2003)

This book brings into stark relief the myriad forces that have long kept the majority of Haitians poor, sick and silenced. This book could be used as a study guide for groups. www.commoncouragepress.com

A Hemisphere for Sale: The Epidemic of Unfair Trade in the Americas (2001)

This 26-page booklet from Witness for Peace provides activists, students and concerned individuals with an in-depth look at the human realities of free trade. This document tells of the perils of unfair trade relationships. It looks at different models of trade relationships and provides a trade history of Mexico and other Latin American nations. Available in English and in Spanish. [Read More](#)

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Toward a Globalization of Solidarity

This Pax Christi USA resource is a prayer, study and action packet on globalization. It is a comprehensive packet offering numerous resources for individuals, small groups, and classes that want to reflect on the process of globalization in the light of faith and to help move our world toward "a globalization of solidarity." [Read More](#)

Who is My Neighbor?

This 174-page study guide from Sojourners helps us recognize our own ability to be economists and to dare to dream of the world we want to construct. It also offers suggestions on how to bring that world into being. It includes an in-depth biblical witness on: economic injustice, consumerism, models of alternative economic experiments, values for community economic rights and responsibilities, and transformation ideas. Reflection questions are included for the nine study sessions. [Read More](#)

Take It Personally: How to Make Conscious Choices to Change the World by Anita Roddick

This author presents a vibrant collection of photographs, essays and quotes from writers and activists around the world to help the consumer make informed decisions that affect the world. Available through local bookstores.

Solidarity with the Poor from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development

This booklet offers members of faith-sharing groups an opportunity to explore Catholic social teaching on the subject of building solidarity with the poor. In each of six sessions, various sub-themes of solidarity are addressed, such as the human family and solidarity, the responsibility of solidarity, the work of solidarity and the fruit of solidarity. [Read More](#)

Birdsong & Coffee: A Wake Up Call

This 56-minute video shows the fate of farm families, farming communities and entire ecosystems in coffee-growing regions like Costa Rica. We hear from experts and students, from coffee lovers and bird lovers, and most importantly, from coffee farmers themselves. We learn how their lives and ours are inextricably linked, economically and environmentally, in ways that we need to understand. [Read More](#)

EPICA

The Ecumenical Program on Central America and the Caribbean (EPICA) is a nonprofit, faith-based organization in solidarity with the poor of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. EPICA has been a voice of solidarity and partnership for grassroots organizations and churches in the Americas for more than thirty years, combining critical social analysis, theological reflection and action for justice. [Read More](#)

Christians for Peace in El Salvador (CRISPAZ)

CRISPAZ is a faith-based organization dedicated to building bridges of solidarity between the Church of the poor and marginalized communities in El Salvador and communities in the US and other countries through mutual accompaniment, striving together for peace, justice, sustainability, and human liberation. [Read More](#)

Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central America (FSSCA)

The Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central America (FSSCA) works in partnership and solidarity with low-income communities in Central America organized to achieve environmental sustainability, economic self-sufficiency, social justice, and peace. We assist in providing the financial, technical, and moral support needed for these communities to carry out their plans. The vision, initiative, organization, and implementation of the projects we support come directly from the communities with whom we work.

American Friends Service Committee

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This Quaker organization includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace and humanitarian service. It focuses on issues related to economic justice, peace-building, demilitarization, social justice and youth in the United States and other countries. [Read More](#)

Partners for Just Trade

This non-profit, faith-based organization builds partnerships between producers living in extreme poverty and consumers in North America. They address the root causes of poverty through Fair Trade sales, education, solidarity, and a commitment to trade justice. Partners for Just Trade began as an initiative of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. More than 15 artisan groups, with over 200 producers, now work with Partners for Just Trade. To find out more about the work of this organization, visit their website: <http://www.partnersforjusttrade.org>.

Catholic Relief Services

This is the official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. CRS works in over 100 countries to alleviate poverty, hunger and suffering through programs that uphold the dignity of the human person and recognize that all are united in one human family. www.crs.org

Global Issues that Affect Everyone

This Web site looks into global issues that affect everyone and shows how issues are interrelated. Over 5,000 links to external articles, Web sites, reports and analyses are provided on trade, poverty, and globalization, to human rights, geopolitics, and the environment. [Read More](#)

Guatemalan Accompaniment

This group operates in Guatemala City to build cross-border relationships of solidarity by uniting North American activists with Guatemalans seeking peace and social justice. [Read More](#)

Jubilee USA Network

This network brings together diverse people and organizations to work for a world free of debt for billions of poor people through solidarity with partners worldwide, advocacy strategies and education. [Read More](#)

Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development

This department of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops offers resources on Catholic social teaching, national and international justice issues, as well as legislative information and action items. It also offers a legislative advocacy network. www.usccb.org/sdwp

School of the Americas Watch

This independent organization seeks to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas through vigils and fasts, demonstrations, and nonviolent protests, as well as media and legislative work. [Read More](#)

African Development Foundation

ADF is the only U.S. government agency working solely at the grassroots level in Africa to alleviate poverty and promote broad-based sustainable development. For more than 20 years, ADF has helped grassroots groups and individuals in Africa help themselves by providing the resources they need to advance their own efforts to promote economic and social development. [Read More](#)

Global Impact

Global Impact is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the poorest people on earth. It represents more than 50 of the most respected U.S. based internal charities in workplace-giving campaigns across the nation. Global Impact charities get results by providing the tools for people to help themselves. [Read More](#)

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Jubilee Network

Jubilee Network is part of a global movement seeking to cancel the unpayable debts of the world's poorest countries. [Read More](#)

Kiva

Kiva lets you connect with and loan money to unique small businesses in the developing world. By choosing a business on kiva.org, you can sponsor a business and help the world's poor people make great strides toward economic independence. Throughout the course of the loan (usually 6-12 months), you can receive email journal updates from the businesses you've sponsored. As loans are repaid, you receive your money back. [Read More](#)

Hunger

Bread for the World Resources

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which we live. [Read More](#)

Grace at the Table

By David Beckmann and Art Simon, Grace at the Table is a primer on the causes of hunger and what we as ordinary citizens can do to end the problem at home and around the world. [Purchase](#) a copy.

Bread for the World's 2011 Offering of Letters Kit

A 32-page handbook and an eight-minute video show how urging Congress to make changes in tax policies will enable low-income workers to provide for their families. Background information, Bible study, and worship resources are included. [Read More](#) about the Offering of Letters or purchase an Offering of Letters kit.

A Just and Sustainable Recovery (Bread for the World's 2010 Hunger Report)

The 2010 Hunger Report focuses on recovery from the worst economic crisis in 75 years and the looming crisis of climate change. It highlights the opportunity we have to do things differently, to address poverty, and put people and the planet at the center of our decisions. The recovery has the potential to create green jobs that offer people a path out of poverty and build a more sustainable economy. [Read More, Purchase, or Download](#) a free copy.

Christian Study Guide

The *Christian Study Guide* is designed for Christians of many theological and political viewpoints. The Bible teaches us that God is redeeming his people and restoring the whole creation. Each session invites participants to consider how they might act in response to the issues discussed in Bread for the World's Hunger Report. [Read More or Download](#) a free copy. The *Christian Study Guide* can also be found in the back pages of the 2010 Hunger Report.

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Global Development: Charting a New Course (Bread for the World's 2009 Hunger Report)

The 2009 Hunger Report analyzes the inefficiencies in the current structure of U.S. foreign assistance and maps out a series of reforms to elevate development as a foreign policy priority. The challenges of the 21st century argue for a fresh approach to U.S. foreign assistance. [Purchase](#) a copy

Working Harder for Working Families (Bread for the World's 2008 Hunger Report)

No hard working family should have to raise their children in poverty--and yet the sad truth is that many are. Hunger Report 2008 focuses on families struggling to get by on these kinds of jobs, living in or on the edge of poverty. It recommends policies to support low-wage workers and help them and their families build assets. [Purchase](#) a copy.

Healthy Food, Farms and Families (Bread for the World's 2007 Hunger Report)

The 2007 Hunger Report focuses on key nutrition programs, rural development initiatives, commodity payments, conservation programs and agricultural trade issues that are all shaped by the farm bill. Our argument is that the traditional way is outdated and there are better alternatives to help farmers. Reforms can help both farmers and hungry people. [Purchase](#) a copy

Frontline Issues in Nutrition Assistance (Bread for the World's 2006 Hunger Report)

The 2006 Hunger Report argues the fastest, most direct way to reduce hunger is to improve nutrition assistance programs. In the United States, that means improving existing federal programs. In the developing world, we focus on nutrition interventions that will have an immediate impact on the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children. [Purchase](#) a copy

Strengthening Rural Communities (Bread for the World's 2005 Hunger Report)

The Millennium Development Goal of cutting hunger in half by 2015 is clearly in jeopardy now unless global leaders focus immediate attention on the problems occurring in rural areas, where three of every four undernourished people in the world live. To significantly reduce the numbers of hungry people in the world, we must look to ways to strengthen rural communities, and global leaders must commit to giving rural development the highest priority. [Purchase](#) a copy

Hunger No More: 2010 Edition

This recently-refreshed edition is a multi-session curriculum that focuses on issues of poverty and hunger for adults or youth. *Hunger No More* engages people in a conversation about their faith--with prayerful reflection, dialogue and response--to understand how we can move closer to the promise of Revelation 7:16: "They shall hunger no more." [Read More, Purchase or Download](#) a free copy.

Other Hunger Resources

World Food Security: A Catholic View of Food Policy in the New Millennium by Martin M. McLaughlin

The thesis of this book is that the primary responsibility for improving the failing global food system rests with the persons and institutions that control the system, reap most of its benefits, and make and enforce the rules for its operation. This book is a compelling call to conscience. [Read More](#)

Grace at the Table: Ending Hunger in God's World by David Beckmann and Arthur Simon (1999)

This 208-page book is filled with statistics and answers to critical questions on national and global hunger and their causes. This is a very informative resource for anyone who is interested in understanding hunger and what strategies can be implemented to fight it. [Read More](#)

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Foods Resource Bank

CRS is a member of the Foods Resource Bank, a Christian, non-profit ecumenical organization committed to fighting hunger overseas. FRB engages communities in the U.S. to raise money and awareness through the FRB community growing project model. Farmers and non-farmers alike enjoy the opportunity to connect with each other and work on a project that can help people who they may never meet. Money raised through FRB growing projects can be designated to support CRS' agriculture programs overseas. [Read More](#)

Food First

The Institute for Food and Development Policy, better known as Food First, is a member-supported, nonprofit think-tank and education-for-action center. Its work highlights root causes of and value-based solutions to hunger and poverty around the world, establishing food as a fundamental human right. [Read More](#)

Center on Hunger and Poverty

This group from Brandeis University's Heller School promotes policies which improve the lives and developmental capacities of low-income children and families in the nation. Established in 1990, the Center brings cutting-edge empirical evidence to the attention of policymakers, the press and the public, and provides advocacy groups and citizen organizations with the latest knowledge in relevant fields. [Read More](#)

Food First

This organization was formerly known as the Institute for Food and Development Policy. It seeks to eliminate the injustices that cause hunger by awakening people to the possibility of social change and their own power to bring it about. [Read More](#)

Food Research and Action Center

FRAC is a leading national organization working to improve public policies to eradicate hunger and under-nutrition in the United States. [Read More](#)

A Banqueter's Guide to the All-Night Soup Kitchen of the Kingdom of God by Patrick T. McCormick, S.T.D. Looking at metaphors used to describe the Eucharist, this book connects the Eucharist and Jesus' words and actions with current issues. Each chapter defines a metaphor associated with the Eucharist and explores its moral, social and ethical implications. [Read More](#)

Heifer Project International

This organization provides animals to poor families across the globe. Heifer donors, volunteers, staff and project partners strive daily to build communities, distribute resources fairly, improve access to education, and preserve our environment. [Read More](#)

Share Our Strength (SOS)

SOS supports food assistance, treats malnutrition, and promotes economic independence among people in need to meet demands for food as well as investing in long-term solutions to hunger and poverty. SOS organizes creative events and programs to mobilize chefs, restaurateurs, authors and artists, as well as accountants, consultants and business executives to help raise awareness and funds. [Read More](#)

Society of Saint Andrew Gleaning America's Fields ~ Feeding America's Hungry

This is an ecumenical Christian ministry that feeds the hungry all year long by saving fresh, nutritious produce that would otherwise go to waste because of market reasons and giving it to the needy. The society of St. Andrew is a Christian ministry that adheres to Christian principles of good stewardship. Therefore, more than 96% of all funds raised by the Society of Saint Andrew is spent on direct delivery of food and services to the hungry. [Read More](#)

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Interfaith Alliance

Interfaith Alliance promotes interfaith cooperation around shared religious values to strengthen the public's commitment to the American values of civic participation, freedom of religion, diversity, and civility in public discourse and to encourage the active involvement of people of faith in the nation's political life. [Read More](#)

Meals on Wheels Association of America

This organization represents member groups that provide home-delivered meals to people who are elderly, homebound, disabled, frail, or at risk. It also gives grants to local senior meal programs throughout the country to assist in providing meals and other nutrition services. [Read More](#)

Feeding America (Formerly known as American Second Harvest)

Feeding America is the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization. Through a network of nearly 200 food banks, Feeding America distributes food to 26 million hungry Americans each year, eight million of whom are children. [Read More](#)

Food for the Hungry

Food for the Hungry is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to meeting physical and spiritual needs around the world through integrated self-development and relief. [Read More](#)

Freedom from Hunger

This group brings innovative and sustainable self-help solutions to the fight against chronic hunger and poverty. Together with local partners they equip families with resources they need to build futures of health, hope, and dignity. [Read More](#)

Action Against Hunger

Action Against Hunger directly delivers emergency aid and longer-term assistance to people suffering from the dire consequences of natural disaster or human-made crises. Their mission is to save lives by combating hunger, disease, and the crises threatening the lives of helpless men, women, and children. [Read More](#)

Microloans and Grants

Building Better Lives: Cost Effectively Integrating Credit with Education from Microcredit Summit

This video describes how microcredit institutions can go beyond offering credit to also offering education and how this education can be integrated into a microloan approach. It discusses child survival and HIV prevention as targeted areas for education. info@microcreditsummit.org

CCHD Economic Development Grants

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development's Economic Development Program is designed to create good jobs and just workplaces in the United States and to develop assets for low-income people, their families and their communities. [Read More](#) or contact the national office about Economic Development Grants: www.usccb.org/cchd/grants/edgengrant.shtml.

Fonkoze Means Shoulder to Shoulder: How Microcredit Works in the Country of Haiti

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In Haiti, where almost nothing else works, Fonkoze is a growing institution that has operated banks for the poor for more than a decade. Founded by a Haitian priest, the organization provides microcredit loans through solidarity groups and effective literacy programs (based on the writings of Paolo Freire) that provide the rural poor with the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty. www.fonkoze.org

Oikocredit USA

Oikocredit is one of the world's largest sources of private funding to the microfinance sector. They provide credit to trade cooperatives, fair trade organizations and small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) in the developing world. [Read More](#)

To Our Credit: Bootstrap Banking and the World and To Our Credit: Bootstrap Banking in America

These videos tell the story of the micro lending movement in developing countries by focusing on four programs and one borrower from each program. Grameen Bank and the Small Enterprise Foundation were two of the four institutions featured. [Read More](#)

Immigrants and Refugees

Crossing Borders: Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey

JustFaith Ministries offers the JustMatters module, *Crossing Borders: Migration, Theology, and the Human Journey*. This eight-session module provides participants a chance to find common ground and to discover more about themselves, our God and the millions of people who are on the move in every part of the world. The module is an introductory study of many issues surrounding the topic of migration/immigration. [Read More](#)

Justice for Immigrants: The Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform

In 2005 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops launched a national campaign on immigration reform. Many resources are available for church or parish. [Read More](#)

Justice for Newcomers: A Catholic Call for Solidarity and Reform

This 2005 policy paper from Catholic Charities USA represents the response of Catholic Charities USA and its members to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops campaign for immigration reform: "Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope." As a national partner in the Bishops' campaign, Catholic Charities USA brings the experiences and challenges that are faced by the immigrant people that they serve every day. [Read More](#)

No More Deaths

No More Deaths is an organization whose mission is to end death and suffering on the U.S./Mexico border through civil initiative: the conviction that people of conscience must work openly and in community to uphold fundamental human rights. [Visit their website](#)

One Border, One Body: Immigration & the Eucharist produced by John Carlos Frey in association with Center for Latino Spirituality and Culture (2008) This documentary tells the story of an annual liturgy celebrated at the border, but unlike other liturgies, a sixteen-foot iron fence divides this community in half, with one side in Mexico and the other in the United States. "One Border, One Body" tells the story of a ritual that unites people beyond political constructions that divide them. [Read More](#)

Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope

From U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Mexico Conference of Bishops

This joint pastoral statement by the bishops' conferences of the U.S. and Mexico looks at migration. It presents

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a vision of interdependent neighbors whose shared faith transcends borders and who are dedicated to building a more just and generous immigration system. [Read More](#)

The Line in the Sand: Stories from the U.S./Mexico Border

This DVD uses the power of theater to tell the personal stories of people affected by U.S./Mexico border migration. Through an hour-long collection of monologues and photos, audiences are exposed to a variety of points of view on this complex and critical issue. This DVD is free from CRS. [Read More](#)

Nobodies: Modern American Slave Labor and the Dark Side of the New Global Economy by John Bowe

This book looks at three illegal workplaces where employees are virtually or literally enslaved. From the fields of Immokalee FL, to Tulsa OK, where imported workers from India found themselves confined to a factory building to work 60-hour weeks for \$3.05 an hour and spend weekends trying to trade sex for green cards. [More Information](#)

Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, and the Bible by M. Daniel Carroll R. This book provides biblical and ethical guidance for readers who are looking for a Christian perspective on the immigration issue. As both a Guatemalan and an American, the author has immersed himself in this issue and is uniquely qualified to write about it. He speaks to both the immigrant culture and the host culture, arguing that both sides have much to learn about the debate. [Read More](#)

This Flowing Toward Me: A Story of God Arriving in Strangers by Marilyn Lacey What began in 1979 as a response to a bulletin board posting would ultimately change Sister Marilyn Lacey's life and the lives of countless refugees. Sister Lacey narrates her 25-year spiritual journey of working with those displaced by conflict and disaster. [More Information](#)

In the Shadow of the Raid is a 30-minute documentary that tells the story of what happened when Immigration agents stormed a kosher meat plant in the heartland of America, arresting nearly 400 undocumented workers. The biggest immigration raid in US history severed an economic lifeline to an impoverished community in Guatemala while pushing an Iowa farm town to the brink of collapse. <http://streetdogmedia.wordpress.com/about-the-movie/>

U.S. Committee for Refugee Voices

This group promotes public understanding of refugees in the United States and facilitates the ability of U.S. citizens to get involved with refugees in their local communities. It defends the rights of all uprooted people. [Read More](#)

USCCB: Office of Migration and Refugee Services

This department of U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is committed to resettlement, pastoral care and advocacy roles on behalf of immigrants, migrants and refugees. It offers many resources, publications and notices on its Web site. [Read More](#)

The Invisible Chapel

This moving 31-minute documentary tells the story of a community of faith caught in the conflict over immigration. For over twenty years a migrant chapel remained invisible to the wealthy residents of a San Diego neighborhood. Every Sunday volunteers from a local church provided humanitarian aid and held a service for over 100 impoverished agricultural, construction and service industry workers from Mexico. When local neighbors along with the San Diego Minutemen clashed with the mostly undocumented immigrant congregation, the ensuing conflict forced the migrants and volunteers out of their sacred space and ultimately caused the demolition of their place of worship. The DVD also has a Spanish language option. [Read More](#)

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Dying to Live

This documentary offers a profound look at the human face of the immigrant. It explores why migrants leave their homes and what they face in their journey. Drawing on the insights of Pulitzer Prize winning photographers, theologians, Church and congressional leaders, activists, musicians and the immigrants themselves, this film exposes the places of conflict, pain and hope along the US-Mexico border. It is a reflection on the human struggle for a more dignified life and the search to find God in the midst of that struggle.

[Read More](#) or call 574-631-3233.

Lives for Sale

This documentary on immigration and human trafficking goes beyond the rhetoric to show why immigrants are willing to risk everything — even virtual slavery — for the American Dream. While politicians, activists and the media wrestle with the thorny issue of immigration, this investigative documentary exposes the painful and rarely seen human side of illegal immigration; especially the growing black market trade in human beings.

[Read More](#)

Nonviolence and Peacemaking

Engaging our Conflicts: The Power of Peacemaking

This much anticipated JustMatters module was developed for JustFaith by Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service, the international leader in this work. The eight-session module explores the power and potential of nonviolent peacemaking in our lives and in the world. Participants learn how to apply nonviolence to real issues that interest them, develop a strong understanding of and commitment to the practice of nonviolent peacemaking, cultivate a deeper communal practice in the group, and culminate in a peacemaking activity that participants plan and engage in. [Read more](#)

The Nonviolent Movement: Spirituality for the 21st Century by Mary Lou Kownacki

This book offers deep insights into the nature of human relationships and peacemaking. It offers a personal process for developing a spirituality of nonviolence tailored to facing and transforming the violence and suffering of our times. It is an excellent resource for individuals, faith sharing groups, church or parish gatherings, families and religious communities. [Read More](#)

Return to El Salvador is a 60 minute documentary that explores the reconstruction of El Salvador, post-civil war. The 12-year conflict (from 1980 to 1992) killed over 75,000 people and displaced nearly one-fifth of the population. The fighting resulted in a staggering number of civilian deaths as the Salvadoran Army bombed and raided villages thought to be sympathetic to the FMLN. Many of these Salvadoran Army soldiers were trained and supported by the U.S. military at its School of the Americas, located in Ft. Benning, Georgia [Read More](#)

Is There No Other Way? The Search for a Nonviolent Future by Michael N. Nagler (2001)

This book looks at political and social issues as well as the need to root nonviolence in spirituality and lifestyle choices. Available through local bookstores.

Voices for Creative Nonviolence

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Voices has deep, long-standing roots in active nonviolent resistance to war-making. Begun in the summer of 2005, Voices draws upon the experiences of those who challenged the brutal economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. and U.N. against the Iraqi people between 1990 and 2003. Voices participants rely on and have learned from experiences of those who have engaged in active nonviolent resistance including draft resistance; resistance to the wars in Latin America; and resistance to nuclear weapons, such as the Plowshares resistance efforts. Voices draws upon the lessons gleaned from active participation in peace teams in Haiti, Yugoslavia, Palestine and Iraq. [Read More](#)

Peacemakers Booklet Series

This series of booklets from Pax Christi give readers a short but thorough portrait of the lives and messages of ten holy and heroic figures. They include Dorothy Day, Gandhi, Franz Jägerstätter, Thomas Merton, Martin Luther King Jr., Jean Donovan, Oscar Romero, and others. A study guide is also included. [Read More](#)

The Way of Peace: Exploring Nonviolence for the 21st Century by Shannon McManimom

This is a ten-session study guide on nonviolence and Christianity. The sessions are self-contained and include prayers and discussion pieces. This manual is an introductory guide to the spirit and practice of nonviolence in recent decades as practiced by Mohandas Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dorothy Day, Cesar Chavez, and others. Perfect for classroom or church or parish study groups, especially during Lent. [Read More](#)

Hell's Abyss/Heaven's Grace: War and Christian Spirituality by Lawrence Hart (2006)

This book offers a spirituality of peacemaking using Christian leaders from around the world, showing the real possibilities for peace. Available in bookstores.

From Violence to Wholeness (FVTW) by Ken Butigan with Patricia Bruno, OP

This ten-part group study process facilitates participants' journeys into the creative power of nonviolent peacemaking. FVTW invites participants to cultivate the groundwork for a nonviolent life and offers a process and tools for putting this into practice in everyday lives, in communities, and in movements for social change. [Read More](#)

Franciscan Nonviolence: Stories, Reflections, Principles, Practices, and Resources by Ken Butigan, Mary Litell, OSF, and Louis Vitale, OFM

This study guide highlights seven of the early stories about St. Francis and St. Clare that dramatize the teaching and practice of active nonviolence. These stories suggest important aspects of the spiritual journey of active nonviolence, including conversion to peacemaking, nonviolent intervention and mediation, and reconciliation. [Read More](#)

Peace Grows! A Six-Part Exploration of Cultures of Peace by Mary Litell, OSF, and Rosemary Lynch, OSF

This six-part group study process (curriculum, CD and DVD/VHS) helps participants to articulate their longing for a peaceful way of life and to reflect on ways they are already promoting a peaceful culture in their daily life and work. The [Peace Grows](#) video contains interviews of people nurturing a culture of peace and the [Peace Grows](#) CD contains instrumental and vocal music that help nurture a culture of peace. [Read More](#)

Roots of Violence in the U.S. Culture: A Diagnosis Toward Healing by Alain Richard, OFM

This group study guide exposes the origins and current causes of the underlying violence pervasive in our culture as the first step toward healing. Fr. Richard reflects upon the violent tendencies in U.S. culture. Each chapter includes reflection questions. [Read More](#)

Be Not Afraid: An Alternative to the War on Terror by Thomas Cordaro

The author proposes the need to tell a different story, one grounded in the underappreciated and often unacknowledged U.S. history of a democratic republic founded on principles and ideals now under attack by the

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"War on Terror," a story that continues the work-in-progress of our country. This alternative story is based not on fear or on a view of peace as enforced order, but on the concept of peace as an enterprise of justice. This is a story linked to the great Christian narrative: the hope and promise of God as revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. [Read More](#)

A Moral Response to Terrorism from Sojourners

This five-unit study guide leads the reader through the soul-searching moral and theological questions of the post-September 11 world. How do we find light in this present darkness? Why do the terrorists hate America? Is Islam the enemy? What is the best way to fight terrorism? The guide contains study questions, action steps and further resources for study. [Read More](#)

Gandhi and Beyond by David Cortright

The author asks is there room for nonviolence in an age of terrorism? Drawing on the legend and lessons of Gandhi, he traces the history of nonviolent social activism through the early 20th century to the civil rights movement, the Vietnam era, and up to the present war in Iraq. It lays the foundation of a renewed dedication to nonviolence as the universal path to social progress and antidote to terrorism. Available from local bookstores.

The Imam and the Pastor

In the 1990s in Nigeria, Pastor James Wuye and Imam Muhammad Ashafa led opposing, armed militias, dedicated to defending their respective communities as violence broke out in Nigeria. Now the two men are co-directors of the Muslim-Christian Interfaith Mediation Center in their city, leading task-forces to resolve conflicts across Nigeria. This resource from Initiatives of Change is both a moving story of forgiveness and a case-study in how to rebuild communities torn apart by conflict. Email: info@us.initiativesofchange.org or call 202-872-9077.

Catholic Peace Fellowship

This organization is dedicated to practicing the peace of Christ, revealed in the teachings of the Catholic Church, through ministry and education. It also educates the Church community about the two options by which a Catholic may address conflict: active pacifism and just war. www.catholicpeacefellowship.org

NonViolent Peaceforce

Nonviolent Peaceforce is an unarmed peacekeeping force composed of trained civilians from around the world. In partnership with local groups, Nonviolent Peaceforce members apply proven nonviolent strategies to protect human rights, deter violence, and help create space for local peacemakers to carry out their work. [Read More](#)

Every Church a Peace Church

This is an organization that encourages churches to commit to a vision of peace and nonviolence. [Read More](#)

Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)

As the largest and oldest interfaith, peace organization in the United States, FOR seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, peace and justice. It educates, trains, builds coalitions and engages in nonviolent and compassionate actions locally, nationally and globally. It also offers a legislative advocacy network. www.forusa.org

Institute for Peace and Justice

This independent, interfaith, nonprofit organization began as a response to the realities of war, racism and global economic injustice. It is committed to the challenge, "If you want peace, work for justice," by helping people find learnable and doable alternatives that incorporate justice and reconciliation into an active quest for peace in everyday life. www.ipj-ppj.org

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Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service

Franciscan-founded Pace e Bene fosters peace and justice through nonviolence education, community building and action. Pace e Bene offers workshops, trainings, retreats and resources in the spirituality and practice of nonviolent peacemaking. www.paceebene.org

Pax Christi

This group strives to create a world that reflects the peace of Christ by exploring, articulating, and witnessing to the call for Christian nonviolence. It rejects war, preparations for war, and every form of violence and domination. It advocates primacy of conscience, economic and social justice and respect for creation. It also offers a legislative advocacy network. www.paxchristiusa.org

Christian Peacemaker Teams

This organization offers an organized, nonviolent alternative to war and other forms of lethal inter-group conflict. It provides organizational support to persons committed to faith-based nonviolent alternatives in situations where lethal conflict is an immediate reality or is supported by public policy. www.cpt.org

The Catholic Worker

Over 185 Catholic Worker communities remain committed to nonviolence, voluntary poverty, prayer, and hospitality for the homeless, exiled, hungry, and forsaken. Catholic Workers continue to protest injustice, war, racism and violence of all forms. www.catholicworker.org

Center for Defense Information

This nonpartisan organization is committed to independent research on the social, economic, environmental, political and military components of global security. Its central aim is to educate the public and inform policymakers about issues of security policy, strategy, operations, weapon systems, and defense budgeting and to produce creative solutions to the problems of today and tomorrow. www.cdi.org

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation initiates and supports worldwide efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, to strengthen international law and institutions, to use technology responsibly and sustainability, and to empower youth to create a more peaceful world. www.wagingpeace.org

Peace Action

This organization promotes grassroots activism for nuclear disarmament, an end to weapons trafficking, a just economy, a democratic foreign policy and an informed electorate. www.peace-action.org

Ploughshares Fund

This group pools contributions from donors and reinvests these resources in practical and effective efforts to stop the spread of weapons of war in a nuclear age, to address the environmental legacy of the nuclear age, and to promote public understanding and participation. Specifically, it tries to influence leaders and the public, improve news coverage, and direct resources to lobbyists and to citizen advocacy campaigns.

www.ploughshares.org

Peace Brigades International

This organization protects human rights and promotes nonviolent transformation of conflicts.

www.igc.apc.org/pbi

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Witness for Peace

This is a grassroots organization committed to nonviolence and promotion of social justice in Latin America and the Caribbean. It works for change in those policies of the U.S. and foreign governments that perpetuate poverty and oppression in Latin America and the Caribbean. www.witnessforpeace.org

Poverty & Economic Justice

Living Solidarity: Government, the Federal Budget and the Common Good

The federal budget is a moral document, and we are all called to bring values – not our opinions – to the many conversations about the economy and the federal budget. This eight-session JFM module participants engage the question: “What kind of society do we wish to become?” [Read More](#)

Catholics Confront Global Poverty

The USCCB’s Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development and Catholic Relief Services have joined together to engage one million Catholics in an effort to reduce global poverty through learning and action. This initiative engages Catholics to advocate for U.S. policies that foster economic and social development for people living in poverty throughout the world. [Read More](#) .

Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) - Poverty USA Campaign

CCHD offers a variety of ways in which you can become involved in the effort to identify and work on long-term solutions to poverty in the United States. Visit this highly interactive Web site to learn what you don’t know about poverty in the United States! The *interactive* education and action opportunities assist all Americans with learning more and finding specific action opportunities. [Read More.](#)

Poverty USA Tour: America's Forgotten State

This provocative, 3 ½ -minute, multimedia presentation explores the difficulties encountered in trying to provide for a family's well being when living below the poverty line. Includes a version with Spanish subtitles and video versions of "Among the People," "Winds of Change" and "Community in Action." [Read More](#)

The End of Poverty? explains how today's financial crisis is a direct consequence of unchallenged policies that have lasted centuries. Global poverty did not just happen. It began with military conquest, slavery and colonization that resulted in the seizure of land, minerals and forced labor. Today, the problem persists because of unfair debt, trade and tax policies – in other words, wealthy countries taking advantage of poor, developing countries. 104 minute video. <http://www.theendofpoverty.com/>

Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good

In this policy paper, Catholic Charities USA outlines how the existence of poverty violates Judeo-Christian values, presents the current scope of poverty and growing inequality, analyzes strategies that have been successful and unsuccessful in helping to reduce poverty, and identifies policy proposals and strategies that will reduce poverty going forward. [Read More](#)

Tools for Reflection and Action

After reading the Catholic Charities USA’s *Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good*, many people ask, “What can I do?” *Tools for Reflection and Action* lay out several strategies for individuals and churches to strengthen their personal or communal advocacy efforts and come to a deeper understanding of poverty as a moral issue. [Read More](#)

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Catholic Teaching on Economic Life

As Catholics, we have a valuable resource in Catholic social teaching that gives us principles and themes to use as we analyze economic life in the light of our faith and respond in ways that promote the dignity of all. This Department of Justice, Peace and Human Web site provides a wide range of resources on Catholic teaching on economic life and includes podcasts, statements, reflections, resources for churches and stories. [Read More](#)

How Much is Enough?

How can we follow Christ in a materialistic culture? Bread for the World founder and president emeritus Arthur Simon has written a new book to help answer that question. *How Much Is Enough? Hungering for God in an Affluent Culture* points out that while possessions may capture our hearts, they are unable to nourish our souls or give us joy. [Purchase](#) a copy.

Just Neighbors: Now with Catholic Social Teaching Supplement

Just Neighbors, a resource from Family Promise, asks the questions: “Who is my neighbor?” and “What responsibility do we have to our neighbors as persons of faith?” The *Just Neighbors* interactive curriculum educates adults and older students in churches, schools and other organizations about the root causes of poverty, spurs them on to greater service, and empowers them as advocates for neighbors in need. A Catholic social teaching supplement allows those videos and activities to creatively communicate some basic principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The nine one-hour sessions (with an additional 30 minutes of the optional Catholic Social Teaching) are easy to facilitate. [Read More](#)

Stop Child Poverty

This group works at the grassroots level to raise awareness of child poverty worldwide, and to help everyday world citizens make a difference in the lives of children in need. Stop Child Poverty works to promote the United Nations Millennium Goals to have extreme poverty by 2015. [Read More](#)

Oxfam International

Oxfam International is a group of independent nongovernmental organizations dedicated to fighting poverty and related injustice around the world. The organization works together internationally to achieve greater impact by their collective efforts, and also maintains a Washington advocacy office which lobbies on a variety of issues. [Read More](#)

The Millennium Project

This effort to end poverty is maintained by the United Nations and highlights the progress countries have made in eradicating extreme poverty. It provides regional profiles and serves as a platform for independent campaigns to inform a large audience about their work and encourage people to join them in making the millennium goals a reality. [Read More](#)

Our Day to End Poverty: 24 Ways You Can Make a Difference by Shannon Daley-Harris and Jeffrey Keenan

This book invites us to look at 24 hours in an ordinary day and to think about scores of simple actions anyone can take to help eradicate poverty. [Read More](#)

No Shame in My Game: The Working Poor in the Inner City by Katherine S. Newman (2000)

For two years, Katherine Newman met and spoke with several hundred poor and low-income people living and working in Harlem. Newman explores the issues of poverty, working and welfare as she dispels the myth that poor people just need to get a job or work harder. Available through local bookstores.

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Health Care for All Resource

Working with the Catholic Health Association, Catholic Charities USA and other segments of the Catholic community, the USCCB Office of Justice, Peace and Human Development offers a variety of health care related resources on their website. [Read More](#)

From Poverty to Punishment: How Welfare Reform Punishes the Poor

This book from **the** American Research Center includes articles such as: "The Right's Campaign Against Welfare" by Jean Hardisty and Lucy Williams, "Welfare Policy and American Politics" by Frances Piven, and "Valuing Women's Work" by Gwendolyn Mink. [Read More](#)

Institute for Research on Poverty

This University of Wisconsin center does interdisciplinary research into the causes and consequences of poverty and social inequality in the United States. As one of three Poverty Research Centers sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, it has a particular interest in poverty and family welfare in the Midwest. [Read More](#)

The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time by Jeffrey D. Sachs

This book presents a clear conceptual map of the world's economy and explains why the poorest nations have been unable to improve their lot. He tells of his own work in Bolivia, Poland, Russia, India, China and Africa sharing challenges faced by these countries and offering an integrated set of solutions. Available at bookstores.

Poverty Knowledge: Social Science, Social Policy, and the Poor in Twentieth-Century U.S. History

By Alice O'Connor (2001)

This book gives a comprehensive, historical account of the thinking and research behind the "poverty problem." Available through bookstores.

Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich (2002)

This book reveals the lives of people working in low-wage America in all their tenacity, anxiety and surprising generosity. It spreads the news of America's working poor clearly and directly — and with a deep moral outrage. Available through local bookstores.

A Place at the Table

This USCCB document articulates a Catholic recommitment to overcoming poverty and to respecting the dignity of all of God's children. Access this Web site for materials and aids to address both domestic and international poverty. [Read More](#)

Urban Entry

This Mile High Ministries series of DVDs with accompanying discussion questions and suggested Bible study topics, offer contemporary insights into the complex issues of poverty that communities are facing all around the country. The first DVD in the series focuses on charity and transformation, while the second DVD looks at the suburbanization of poverty. [Read More](#)

Prayer

Prayers without Borders: Celebrating Global Wisdom

This Catholic Relief Services (CRS) book is a collection of prayers and reflections from the people that CRS serves around the world. It is a beautiful, inspiring and challenging book of prayers that transcends boundaries and crosses borders. [Read More](#)

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Living in God's Justice: Prayers and Reflections Edited by The Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors (2006)

This is an anthology of prayers that offer a social justice perspective. [Read More](#)

Out of the Ordinary: Prayers, Poems, and Reflections for Every Season by Joyce Rupp

This book contains thoughtful and prayerful reflections for a wide variety of needs and times: Advent, Pentecost, birthdays and so on. These prayers, rituals, guided visualizations, reflections and poems invite us to hold the poor of the world in the embrace of compassion. [Read More](#)

A Justice Prayer Book with Biblical Reflections

This booklet is a collection of reflections on select Bible texts for prayerful meditation on the themes of Catholic social teaching. Available in English and Spanish. [Read More](#)

A Scriptural Rosary for Peace and Justice

This CCHD booklet offers a scriptural rosary based on the joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious mysteries. The mysteries challenge us to see the face of Christ in others and do the work of justice and peace in the world today. Available in English and Spanish. [Read More](#)

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Lenten resources at <http://www.usccb.org/lent>. This website has a wide variety of suggestions and resources to support Lenten practice, enhance prayer and embrace one's baptismal commitment. The Lenten calendar provides daily suggestions for action, reading, reflection and prayer.

Hunger for the Word: Lectionary Reflections on Food and Justice edited by Larry Hollar

Each of these annual volumes (years A, B and C) from Bread for the World provides provocative weekly lectionary-based reflections on Scripture written by pastors, laypersons and professors who are Bread for the World members, activists and staff. Their insights incorporate experiences from hunger and justice ministries throughout our nation and world that can stimulate connections with Scripture and help enable powerful preaching and Bible study. [Purchase the entire set.](#)

Our Prayers Rise Like Incense edited by Cindy Pile (1998)

This 228-page book of liturgies, some of which include Eucharist, is meant to be used when people of faith need to speak out boldly and clearly for justice and peace in our world. [Read More](#)

Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth by Walter Brueggemann (2003)

These are prayers that take on life in its fullest as the author utters his praise and lament, petition and thanksgiving. Brueggemann's prayers lead us to deeper commitment, deeper faith, and deeper reflection. [Read More](#)

A Maryknoll Book of Prayer edited by Michael Leach and Susan Perry

This is a wonderful collection of prayers, traditional and contemporary, written by people of every race, land and language. [Read More](#)

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Prison Reform and Ministry

Prisoner Advocacy

The National Prison Project is a Division of the NAACP Branch and Field Services Department. The priorities for the Project are to assist in efforts to re-enfranchise former felons who have served their sentence, reactivate former prison branches and activate new prison branches, assist in providing voter registration and voter education, address disparate treatment of inmates, identify and provide referrals for inmates and their families through collaborative partnerships. [Read More](#)

The Sentencing Project works for a fair and effective criminal justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing law and practice, and alternatives to incarceration. It was founded in 1986 to provide defense lawyers with sentencing advocacy training and to reduce the reliance on incarceration. The Sentencing Project is dedicated to changing the way Americans think about crime and punishment. [Read More](#)

Human Rights Watch provides an international perspective on prison issues with a human rights focus. [Read More](#)

Reentry and Restorative Justice

The Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign is designed to support the work of community and faith-based organizations through offering media resources that will facilitate community discussion and decision making about solution-based reentry programs. Source for the excellent video and study guide *Outside the Walls: A National Snapshot of Community Based Reentry Programs*. [Read More](#)

CURE (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants) is a membership organization of families of prisoners, prisoners, former prisoners and other concerned citizens. CURE's two goals are (1) to use prisons only for those who have to be in them (2) and for those who have to be in them, to provide them all the rehabilitative opportunities they need to turn their lives around. CURE is organized by local chapters. [Read More](#)

Victim Offender Mediation Association is an international membership association, supports and assists people and communities working at models of restorative justice. VOMA provides resources, training, and technical assistance in victim-offender mediation, conferencing, circles, and related restorative justice practices. [Read More](#)

The Restorative Justice Mission Network of North America believes that restorative justice is a process for all the parties affected by a crime to collectively seek ways to recover from the resulting trauma and that restorative justice reflects Biblical concepts rather than retributive models of justice. [Read More](#)

Restorative Justice Online is a collaboration between Prison Fellowship International and the Centre for Justice and Reconciliation. [Read More](#)

The Centre for Restorative Justice is located at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia. Canada has long been in the forefront of the restorative justice field. [Read More](#)

Prison Ministry

Dismas Ministries is a Catholic outreach to inmates, victims, their families, and the community with many local chapters. [Read More](#)

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Homeboy Industries' mission is to assist at-risk and former gang involved youth to become contributing members of our community through a variety of services in response to their multiple needs. Free programs -- including counseling, education, tattoo removal, job training and job placement -- enable young people to redirect their lives and provide them with hope for their futures. [Read More](#)

Prison Fellowship Ministries partners with local churches across the country to minister to a group that society often scorns and neglects: prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families. Regional offices can direct local churches and groups into this volunteer ministry. [Read More](#)

The Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association Prison Ministries serves the spiritual and religious needs of Catholic inmates in our nation's prisons, as well as other inmates seeking to know about the Catholic faith and way of life. [Read More](#)

Racism

Brothers and Sisters to Us

This pastoral letter from the U.S. Catholic bishops promotes discussion about and action against racism, "an evil which endures in our society and in our Church." This edition also includes *For the Love of One Another: A Special Message on the Occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of "Brothers and Sisters to Us."* [Read More](#)

Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good

This document helps begin a process for change through information, formation and transformation. The paper is a presentation of facts that cause us to reflect on our own personal experiences, and moves us to recommit ourselves to addressing the issue of racism and poverty in our lifetime. [Read More](#)

E Pluribus Unum

This CCUSA resource, *E Pluribus Unum* (Latin for "out of many, one"), is an eight-session faith sharing group process using "Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good" to facilitate a much needed conversation on poverty and racism. Free materials can be downloaded. [Read More](#)

Racial Sobriety: A Journey from Hurts to Healing by Rev. Dr. Clarence Earl Williams, CPPS (2002)

This book outlines a treatment program for individuals and groups seeking to recover from the "stinking thinking" of racism. [Read More](#)

The Unsteady March by Philip Klinkner (2002)

This 350-page book describes the history of race relations in America and its sporadic, isolated and uneven progress towards racial equality. Available at local bookstores.

Racial and Ethnic Tension: What Should We Do?

This National Issues Forum booklet helps citizens consider tough questions on ethnic discrimination. This deliberation guide considers the issue from three different perspectives and suggests approaches by which the problems might be resolved. Each provides a direction for public action. [Read More](#)

Beyond Black and White by Danny Duncan Collum

This is a six-session booklet, part of the Renew Impact Series, looks at how Scripture can guide us in dealing with racial issues. It reminds us that religion crosses racial boundaries. [Read More](#)

Crossing the Racial Divide: America's Struggle for Justice and Reconciliation from the Editors of *Sojourners*

This 84-page study guide is challenging, hope-filled, and offers a fresh look at a complex issue. Its four sessions hold up insights from the streets and the Gospel to create powerful models for reconciliation and justice. [Read More](#)

Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story by Timothy B. Tyson

Duke University Professor Timothy Tyson, a white man, tells the story of growing up in a small town in North Carolina where the cold-blooded murder of young black man, Henry Marrow, by a hot-tempered local businessman in 1970 would quickly fan the flames of racial discord into explosions of street violence. Available through local bookstores.

Paper Clips

This DVD is about a middle school in a rural Tennessee town that sets out to do an extraordinary experiment in Holocaust education. The students decide to collect six million paper clips to represent the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust. The film details how the students met Holocaust survivors from around the world and how the experience transformed them and their community. Available from Netflix. [Read More](#)

America Beyond the Color Line

This video is a four-part (each part is 60 minutes) PBS documentary, where author Henry Louis Gate, Jr. explores the status of black America at the start of the 21st century. Gates travels to the East Coast, the Deep South, inner-city Chicago, and Hollywood for a close look at the current issues facing today's black communities. [Read More](#)

The Giants Wore White Gloves

This DVD tells the story of the courageous women of Little Rock and their accomplishments during the Little Rock Desegregation Crisis. Faced with the prospect of no schools, a group of middle-class white women put together the Women's Emergency Committee to Open Our Schools (WEC). Largely inexperienced in politics, these women accomplished their goal of reopening the city high schools and went on to be a political force until they disbanded in 1963. [Read More](#)

Bill Moyers' Journal: Race in America

Bill Moyers interviews theologian James Cone about how the powerful images of the noose and the lynching tree relate to the symbol of the cross and how they signify both tragedy and triumph. [Read More](#)

Crossroads Ministry

The mission of this organization is to dismantle systemic racism and build anti-racist multicultural diversity within institutions and communities. It implements this mission primarily by training institutional transformation teams. [Read More](#)

Southern Poverty Law Center

This organization combats hate, intolerance and racism through education and litigation. It provides excellent resources on teaching tolerance for all age groups. www.splcenter.org

National Issues Forum

This is a nationwide network of locally sponsored public forums on public policy issues. The Web site offers excellent resources on racism. www.nifi.org

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Sanctity and Dignity of Life

Local Diocesan Office

Every diocese has a Respect Life Office with many resources on issues related to the sanctity and dignity of life. These resources usually include the topics of pro-life, abortion, fetal and embryonic research, cloning, assisted suicide, capital punishment, and euthanasia.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Catholic Bishops' Web site has many resources on respect life issues. The resources include the Church's teachings on these issues, as well as news releases and current updates and information. [Read More](#)

Abortion

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops link has excellent resources addressing this topic. [Read More](#)

Assisted Suicide/Euthanasia

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops link has excellent resources that address this topic. [Read More](#)

Consistent Life – Voices for Peace and Life

Consistent Life is a coalition uniting many organizations that support the consistent ethic of reverence for life. They are committed to the protection of life that is threatened by abortion, war, poverty, the arms race, racism, capital punishment and euthanasia. They have both resources and links at their Web site. [Read More](#)

Seamless Garment Network

This organization is concerned with protection of life and promoting a "consistent ethic of life." [Read More](#)

Simpler Living

Money and Faith: The Search for Enough by Michael Schut (2008)

On a personal level, this book looks at issues of scarcity and abundance, idolatry and freedom; on a societal level, it explores equity and sustainability. It also serves to empower individuals and groups to apply their faith's values in practical ways. [Read More](#)

Just Living

A program of the Presbyterian Church USA, Just Living helps individuals, couples and families practice faith in all aspects of daily life. The "little" decisions about what we buy, how we get places and ways we celebrate and live all add up and impact people and the planet. We can live into God's call to live justly by working together to create a better world where all can share in the abundant life that God intends. [Read New](#)

Simpler Living, Compassionate Life by Michael Schut, editor

This book is a compilation of essays from experts on topics such as living abundantly, how much is enough, environmental issues, food-purchase options, the politics of simplicity, eco-justice and community, all presented from a Christian perspective. [Read More](#)

Simplicity: Notes, Stories and Exercises for Developing Unimaginable Wealth by Mark A. Burch (1995)

This book eloquently explores voluntary simplicity as a thoughtfully chosen, richly rewarding, and socially fulfilling lifestyle, and sketches alternatives to our often-unsatisfying culture of consumption. Available at bookstores.

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Just Living

From 23rd Publications, these pages contain a pathway to help you live more simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with the poor. Learn to live simply step by step by following ideas from this Web site. [Read More](#)

Simplicity Study Guides: A Step-by-Step Guide by Mark A. Burch

This 72-page study guide outlines a group process that offers a step-by-step approach toward living a life of simplicity. It includes the structure and process for ten meetings and concrete suggestions to simplify life. It is a companion guide to Burch's book, *Simplicity*. Available at bookstores.

The Circle of Simplicity: Return to the Good Life by Cecil Andrews (1997)

This 246-page book, along with an eight-session study guide, describes voluntary simplicity. It helps the reader discover the good life—less work; less rushing; more time with family, friends, community, and nature; and more time to develop a meaningful spirituality. Available through local bookstores.

Affluenza: The Cost of High Living

This excellent video produced by KCTS in Seattle highlights the environmental, societal, communal and spiritual costs of consumption. A significant portion of the video focuses on a Christian response to over-consumerism. Approximately one hour in length, the video comes with a guide for group discussion. 800-937-5387.

The Story of Stuff

All the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of it is hidden from view. The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. This short film exposes the connections between environmental and social issues and calls us to create a more sustainable and just world. The Story of Stuff is available to watch and download free online. Segments available on Electronics, Cosmetics, Bottled Water and Cap and Trade. You can also purchase a DVD for a \$10 donation to the Environmental Grantmakers Association. [Read More](#)

Alternatives for Simple Living

This organization equips people of faith to challenge consumerism, live justly, and celebrate responsibly by offering resources for study and reflection. www.simpleliving.org

Faith and Money Network (formerly called Ministry of Money)

This prophetic Christian ministry encourages all people to become free from their attachment to the U.S. cultural values regarding money and to joyfully live out God's call for their lives and resources. It provides opportunities for individuals to explore their relationship to money from a faith perspective.

<http://www.faithandmoneynetwork.org>

The Responsible Shopper

At this Web site, viewers can learn about hundreds of companies and their track records on a range of issues, including sweatshops, pollution, ethics and discrimination. A search can be done using a company name or product. www.responsibleshopper.org

Dorothy Day: Don't Call Me a Saint

This film is comprised of interviews with Dorothy Day and her close friends, her personal writings, and compelling images of her life and times. All of these elements serve to illustrate her dramatic attempt to marry her spiritual calling with her dedication to social justice and living simply. [Read More](#)

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Happy are You Poor: The Simple Life and Spiritual Freedom by Fr. Thomas Dubay

After presenting the richness of the Gospel message, Fr. Dubay explains how Gospel frugality is lived in each state of life. [Read More](#)

Consumer Consequences

What would the world look like if everyone lived like me? Using the Consumer Consequences interactive game, you can find the answer to that question. The site is designed to illustrate the impact of our lifestyles on the Earth. The site is part of American Public Media's™ special series, "Consumed," which explores whether the modern American lifestyle is sustainable in the long run. [Play Now](#)

Live Simply

Resources produced by CAFOD, the official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales. Wish you could live more simply? Tired of a world of consumerism and hype? Then join the live simply project and get ready for change [Read More](#)

Spirituality

Bread for the Preacher

Sign up to receive monthly resources for busy pastors. *Bread for the Preacher* is a free resource from Bread for the World that includes lectionary-based reflections on hunger and poverty, prayers and other worship resources, bulletin inserts and announcements, and information about additional resources and opportunities. [Read More and Sign Up](#).

Christian Study Guide

The *Christian Study Guide* is a Bread for the World resource that is designed for Christians of many theological and political viewpoints. The Bible teaches us that God is redeeming his people and restoring the whole creation. Each session invites participants to consider how they might act in response to the issues discussed in Bread for the World's Hunger Report. [Read More or Download](#) a free copy. The *Christian Study Guide* can also be found in the back pages of the 2010 Hunger Report.

Modern Spiritual Masters: Writings on Contemplation and Compassion edited by Robert Ellsberg (2008)

This anthology highlights stories and essential teachings of a dozen modern spiritual masters, each of whom embodied a form of engaged spirituality—attuned both to God and the needs of a wounded world. [Read More](#)

Thrift Store Saints: Meeting Jesus 25 Cents at a Time by Jane Knuth is a collection of true stories based on

the author's experiences serving the poor at a St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Kalamazoo, MI. Knuth is a reluctant new volunteer, but by the end of the book, she has undergone a transformation of sorts, and neither she nor we can ever view the poor in the same way again. [Read More](#)

All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time by Robert Ellsberg (1997)

This book is a short, pointed biography for each day of the year that contains canonized, uncanonized and unconventional people who displayed holiness. Available through local bookstores.

Thomas Merton: Essential Writings edited by Christine M. Bochen (2000)

This book is a selection of the writings of the Trappist monk who was closely connected with the Catholic peace movement in the 1960s. It contains sections on contemplation, compassion and unity. [Read More](#)

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The Call to Discernment in Troubled Times: New Perspectives on the Transformative Wisdom of Ignatius of Loyola by Dean Brackley, S.J. (2004)

Fr. Brackley uses the timeless insights of Ignatius to explain a genuine, spiritual methodology: true ways of decision-making for living more fulfilled lives. Available through local bookstores.

Theological Reflection: Connecting Faith and Life by Joyce Gros, OP (2002)

This book discusses theological reflection—the importance, the model and method for achieving it, and the facilitation needed to make it happen in groups. Available through local bookstores.

With Open Hands by Henri Nouwen (2005)

This is Henri Nouwen's first book on spirituality and is a treasured introduction to prayer. It gently encourages an open, trusting stance toward God and offers insight into the components of prayer (silence, acceptance, hope, compassion, and prophetic criticism). [Read More](#)

Radical Optimism: Practical Spirituality in an Uncertain World by Beatrice Bruteau (2002)

Radical optimism is our deepest response to the immense and threatening challenges of our contemporary world. In this profound exposition of the truths of an integrated life, this book challenges the reader to confront difficulty with authentic spirituality. [Read More](#)

Against an Infinite Horizon by Ronald Rolheiser (2001)

Full of personal anecdotes, healing wisdom, and fresh reflections on Scripture, this book draws on the great traditions of parable and storytelling. It provides insights into the benefits of community, social justice, sexuality, mortality and rediscovering the deep beauty and poetry of Christian spirituality. Available through bookstores.

Inviting God In by Joyce Rupp (2001)

This book is organized according to the seasons of the church year, from Advent and Christmas, to Lent and Easter, and on through Ordinary Time and particular festivals. Each entry is just one page long, beginning with a verse from scripture followed by a reflection and a prayer. [Read More](#)

The Saints' Guide to Happiness: Everyday Wisdom from the Lives of the Saints by Robert Ellsberg (2003)

This book examines how we can learn to be truly happy and holy by using the lives and writings of holy people throughout the ages. Available through local bookstores.

Jesus the Rebel: Bearer of God's Peace and Justice by John Dear (2000)

This book explores how Jesus of Nazareth's radical life and teaching speaks to our own world of violence, poverty and nuclear weaponry. In soup kitchens, jails, and war zones, Jesus is reborn to transform our communities, workplaces, churches and hearts. Available at bookstores.

Henri Nouwen: The Road to Peace edited by John Dear

This book, a collection of writings by Henri Nouwen, highlights the author's passion for peace and justice. Throughout his life, Nouwen stressed the connection between intimacy with Christ and solidarity with a wounded world. Nouwen calls on activists to be peacemakers in the fullest sense: to root their witness in prayer, joy, and a spirit of love. Available through bookstores.

Say to this Mountain: Mark's Story of Discipleship by Ched Myers, Marie Dennis, et.al. (2000)

In this book, the authors share their conviction that Mark's Gospel has transforming power only as it intersects with our own life stories and the broader story of the times in which we live. This book covers Mark's Gospel

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verse-by-verse with detailed background and historical insights as well as application of the Word to our world. Available through bookstores.

The Spiritual Activist: Practices to Transform Your Life, Your Work and Your World by Claudia Horwitz
Anyone trying to make a difference in the world needs strategies to both guide and sustain their work. This book is a simple down-to-earth guide for individual and social transformation. Each chapter contains easy activities to help reconnect with core values and beliefs, questions for reflection, and stories from socially conscious leaders discussing their spiritual practices. Available through local bookstores.

A Banqueter's Guide to the All-Night Soup Kitchen of the Kingdom of God by Patrick T. McCormick
Through the study of metaphors commonly used to describe the Eucharist, this book connects the Eucharist and Jesus' words and actions with current issues in society. Readers will become more aware of the need for social justice as they identify with the parables and guidance of Jesus. [Read More](#)

Center for Action and Contemplation

This organization is focused on bridging gaps within the spiritual and justice communities; building a rhythm of contemplative prayer and meditation into our days; and, even more fundamentally, believing that external behavior should be connected to and supported by inner guidance. <http://www.cacradicalgrace.org>

Collected Writings on Nonviolence by John Dear

This site contains many of Fr. Dear's speeches, sermons and prayers. It also has links to other peace and justice Web sites that promote nonviolence. [Read More](#)

Creighton University Online Ministries

Creighton University provides many reflections, prayers and resources at their Web site, and it also provides links to many other spirituality sites. [Read More](#)

Sacred Space

This is a site offered by Irish Jesuits that has daily prayer, reflections and music. [Read More](#)

A Spirituality for Brokenness: Discovering Your Deepest Self in Difficult Times by Terry Taylor

This book guides you through a compassionate yet highly practical process of facing, accepting, and finally integrating your brokenness into your life—a process that can ultimately bring mending. Taylor offers a clear-eyed, kindhearted method based on teachings and practices from many religious traditions. [Read More](#)

What Is the Point of Being a Christian? by Timothy Radcliffe

Using humor, friendship and wisdom, this book outlines a manner of living which is at once faithful to the teachings of Jesus and rooted in the tradition of the Church and at the same time responsive to the turbulence of the modern world. [Read More](#)

Women's Stories and Struggles

The Shape of Water

This documentary tells the stories of powerful, imaginative and visionary women confronting the destructive development of the Third World with positive change. These women are from Senegal, Israel/Palestine, Brazil, and India. The film also addresses the root causes of poverty and generates vibrant alternatives. [Read More](#)

Women Saints: Lives of Faith and Courage by Kathleen Jones (1999)

The women saints whose lives are discussed in this book had varied careers and varied achievements. They were visionaries, martyrs, wives and mothers, penitents, social outcasts, innovators, missionaries and collaborators in scholarly works or in the foundation of religious organizations. www.orbisbooks.org

The Blindfold's Eyes by Dianna Ortiz

This provocative book is the story of an American Ursuline who survived torture at the hands of Guatemalan security forces while working as a missionary in Guatemala. Her journey is one of courage, faith, hope and despair. It documents the excruciating details of her abduction and torture in the hands of Guatemala's infamous police force and the agonizing process of recovery. Through it all, she never loses sight of her commitment to the poor or her hope. www.orbisbooks.org

In the Footsteps of the Crucified: Torture is Never Justified

This eight session module from JustFaith Ministries uses the Dianna Ortiz (above) as a focus. The module represents the work of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), Pax Christi USA, and the Torture Abolition Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC). While the module does not flinch from the reality of torture, it is very much about healing, reconciliation based on revealing the truth and doing justice, and hope for the elimination of torture in the world! [Read More](#)

Terrify No More: Young Girls Held Captive and the Daring Undercover Operation to Win Their Freedom by Gary Haugen (2010) This book tells the story of a small village outside of Phnom Pehn, where children as young as five years old were forced to live as sex slaves. Workers from International Justice Mission (IJM) infiltrated the ring of brothels and gathered evidence to free the children. Headed up by former war-crimes investigator Gary Haugen, IJM faced police corruption, death threats, and mission-thwarting tip-offs. They used legal finesse and high-tech investigative techniques to save the lives of 37 young girls and secured the arrest and conviction of several perpetrators. [Read More](#)

Never Again a World without Us: Voices of Mayan Women in Chiapas, Mexico by Teresa Ortiz (2001)

This book shares the voices of the indigenous women of Chiapas, Mexico, who have decided to break down barriers of discrimination and marginalization and become protagonists of change, to participate in the decision-making that affects their lives, their families and their communities. [Read More](#)

Red Threads: A Spiritual Journal of Accompaniment, Trauma and Healing by Jennifer Atlee-Loudon (2001) This book is about the pain and suffering of the ordinary people in Nicaragua during the years of the U.S.-sponsored Contra war. It is also about human resiliency and the power of divine grace that make it possible for victims of atrocities to stand up for their rights and continue the struggle for the coming reign of God. [Read More](#)

Like the Dew that Waters the Grass: Words from Haitian Women by Marie M. B. Racine with Kathy Ogle (1999) This book is a remarkable collection of interviews that relate the daily struggle for a dignified existence

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in the hemisphere's poorest republic. It presents the voices of women who scramble daily to conquer the scars of dictatorial repression, unshakable poverty, continuing illiteracy, and crippling domestic abuse. At the same time, these women maintain an enviable fighting spirit and a strong sense of hope and assurance. www.epica.org

Traveling with the Turtle: A Small Group Process in Women's Spirituality and Peacemaking

by Cindy Preston-Pile and Irene Woodward (2006) Through ritual, exercises, readings and life practices, this 13-part group process empowers women to work for peace in ways that are practical, creative, inclusive and nonviolent. www.paceebene.org

Life Out of Death: The Feminine Spirit in El Salvador by Marigold Best and Pamela Hussey (1997)

This book shares the words of Salvadoran women. Spoken with direct simplicity, they comprise a redemptive word that reveals the unfinished depth of the liberation process. www.epica.org

Guatemalan Women Speak by Margaret Hooks (1993)

This book contains a collection of interviews with women from all walks of Guatemalan life. It highlights the multiple dimensions of women's oppression as well as their increasing activity as agents for social change. www.epica.org

A Powerful Noise (2009)

This documentary about women changing the world debuted in live screenings around the U.S. to mark International Women's Day in 2009. The film takes you inside the lives of three women – in Mali, Vietnam and Bosnia – as they overcome seemingly insurmountable odds to create lasting change in their communities.

[Read More](#)

The Girl Effect

This Web site offers compelling reasons for making investments in education for young girls all around the world. The ripple effect of educating a girl can have life-long implications for her, her family, and ultimately her whole community. To learn more about the Girl Effect, [Read More](#).

Worker's Rights and Dignity of Work

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)

The CIW is a community-based organization of mainly Latino, Mayan Indian and Haitian immigrants working in low-wage jobs throughout the state of Florida. This worker-led organization has worked since 1993 for an end to modern day slavery in the fields and to improve wages and working conditions for agricultural workers. In recognition of their work, three CIW members were presented the prestigious Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award and they were awarded the 2008 Sister Margaret Cafferty Development of People Award by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. The CIW works in partnership with [Student Farmworker Alliance](#) and the [Alliance for Fair Food](#).

Campaign for Labor Rights

This group mobilizes grassroots support throughout the U.S. to promote economic and social justice by campaigning to end labor rights violations around the world. It provides education and advocates against the underlying causes of the "global sweatshop" and offers an action network to effect change. [Read More](#)

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National Labor Committee

This group helps defend the human rights of workers in the global economy. It investigates and exposes human and labor rights abuses committed by U.S. companies producing goods in the developing world and undertakes public education that empowers U.S. citizens to support the efforts of workers to learn and defend their rights. www.nlcnet.org

Wage Theft in America: Why Millions of Working Americans Are Not Getting Paid by Kim Bobo (2009)

Labor activist Kim Bobo has written an incisive handbook for activists, organizers, workers and concerned citizens on how to prevent the flagrant exploitation of America's working people. [Read More](#)

Sweatshops

This site offers education on sweatshops and information on how consumers can take action and know how to buy "sweatshop free" items. www.sweatshops.org

The Working Poor: Invisible in America by David K. Shipler (2004)

This book narrates the lives of the working poor and their struggles. It also details the failures of society and the difficulties, successes and failures of the poor in the United States. Available through local bookstores.

Made in L.A. (2007)

This DVD tells the story of three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles sweatshops who embark on a long and trying journey to gain basic labor protections from a trendy clothing retailer. [Read More](#)

