

Commissioning Retreat Note to Coordinators

“Go into all the world, and proclaim the good news to all creation.”
Mark 16:15

Dear Friends,

We come to the end of one pilgrimage only to reach the beginning of another. This final day of reflection invites your small community to take a loving look back at the road you have traveled together and to prayerfully anticipate the joys and challenges that lie ahead.

The tone of these eight hours should be reflective, prayerful, and relaxed. Ample time is allotted for journal reflection and sharing. This retreat seeks to accomplish three things:

- To reflect and share about the relationships, experiences, and lessons of the past few months;
- To discern possible ways to continue J-Walking, both personally and as a group;
- To thank, affirm, and commission the J-Walkers with whom you have traveled.

In your preparations, be attentive to the following:

Foster an atmosphere of thanksgiving and celebration.

Discuss the possibilities for a concluding celebration with J-Walkers and friends. Consider opportunities for expressing your thanks to the people at the social service agency.

Invite guests to participate in the commissioning ritual.

Send out timely invitations to family, friends, and other supporters to encourage them to participate in the final hour of the retreat.

Give consideration to possible next-step activities.

Review the suggestions outlined in Attachment E of the *Commissioning Retreat*. Highlight those that seem possible and make additional suggestions.

If the retreat takes place off parish or school property, make sure everyone under eighteen years of age completes a permission slip.

Finally, we invite you to open your heart to our compassionate God who has walked with you, especially in those challenging times when hearts were softened, eyes were opened, and minds were stretched. May the Holy Spirit of justice bring to fruition the good that God has begun in you.

Peace,
The JustFaith Ministries Staff