

VOICES

WINTER/SPRING 2016

An Extraordinary Opportunity: New Pathways for a New Time

by Joe Grant,
Director of Programs, JustFaith Ministries

“When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.” (Matthew 16:2-3)

What do YOU see when you look around and look deeper into life in our times?

What are YOU worried about?

Where do YOU find hope?

These penetrating questions are familiar to JustFaith Ministries’ program participants. And those of us who are watchful, awake, and wondering have good reason to be deeply troubled by the signs of social distress and ecological disintegration facing all God’s children today. In an open letter addressed to all people, Pope Francis echoes the concerns of many religious and civic leaders, scientists and naturalists, when he writes:

If present trends continue, this century may well witness extraordinary climate change and an unprecedented destruction of ecosystems with serious consequences for all of us. (Laudato Si’, 24)

For some time now, it has been clear to people of faith across the world that we are living through an extraordinary time of crisis. The effects of this crisis are already being keenly felt by the poorest among us. Rooted in the social, economic, and spiritual patterns of our lives, this



is a challenge we will surely be facing for the rest of our days, a crisis which carries serious implications for our children and their children to come. Joining with the indigenous and rural people who are close to the land, the pope reminds us all of our call to be guardians of Creation: “tillers” and “keepers” of the Earth. He also invites us to explore what it might mean to undergo an “ecological conversion”, and makes an urgent appeal for “a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet.”

(Laudato Si', 14)

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. (The Earth Charter)

With every crisis comes opportunity and the invitation to embrace change. At JustFaith Ministries, we have taken this invitation to heart. After much discerning and some deliberation, we have decided to allow these critical challenges, and the pope's

paradigm of “eco-social justice” (linking the cry of Creation with the cries of the world's poorest), to inspire and inform the core of our work. Aware that change is costly, demanding a longer, deeper journey, we have committed to renew our premiere program JustFaith, adding a subtitle borrowed from the new paradigm: *Encouraging a Culture of Care.*

“No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.” (Matthew 9:16-17)

We are also excited and delighted to introduce a brand new approach to our work: three new pathways to our programs. These short, deep plunges give small groups a foretaste of our longer programs. They also offer former program participants

an opportunity to introduce friends and members of their faith communities to our unique, transformational ministry. The first pathway, *Gather and Go*, is a 2-hour gathering for 5-10 people, hosted in the intimacy of a living room. It comes in 2 distinct versions: *Taking Mercy to Heart* and *Taking Care of Our Common Home*. The second pathway, *Mercy at the Margins*, involves a 4-hour pilgrimage in which 5-10 participants prayerfully visit two local sites that exemplify the call to cherish the land and her people. The third pathway, *One Common Home*, is an 8-hour retreat for 5-12 people that also serves as primer to the themes and flow of the renewed JustFaith program.

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about the new pathways to our programs and our renewed JustFaith program. We hope you will be inspired to make an extraordinary commitment and take the next step onto a new pathway for the sake of God's people and our precious planet home. *JF*

Let ours be a time remembered
for the awakening of a new reverence for life,
the firm resolve to achieve sustainability,
the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace,
and the joyful celebration of life.

(The Earth Charter)



The Long Path of Renewal for Our Common Home

by Susan Gunn,

Communications Manager, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

www.maryknollaffiliates.org
www.maryknollaymissioners.org
www.maryknollsisters.org
www.maryknollsociety.org



“Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change.”

Pope Francis wrote these words almost one year ago, in his encyclical, *Laudato Si’*. The season of Lent is an apt time to accept this invitation, an opportunity for us to be open to new ways of living.

Maryknoll Sisters, Maryknoll Lay Missioners, and Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers hear the cry calling for change coming from the earth and from poor people in the 26 countries where we serve, calling for change.

In the Philippines, “we are living with extreme heat during summer, frequent category 4-5 typhoons, increased precipitation – sometimes 24 hours of rain bring the equivalent of one month’s rainfall – storm surges and flash flooding, volcanic eruptions, and drying watersheds,” Maryknoll Sister Marvie Misolas said. “The Catholic Church represents more than 80 percent of the population. Climate action in the Church can be a catalyst for change.”

In Bangladesh, “just as we are experiencing a shortage of water in the major cities [from weak and delayed monsoons], the big rivers are flowing full speed from the melting snows in the Himalayas and gouging out great swaths of farm land, threatening a whole way of life for millions of people,” Maryknoll Sister Claudette LaVerdiere said. “Those who lose everything flock to Dhaka to seek work. This city of approximately 16 million is already crowded beyond belief. There is truly no room to spare, and still they come.”

In Tanzania, “rains are very unpredictable now, making farming a risky venture,” Maryknoll Lay Missioner Joanne Miya said.



Last December, 195 countries at the Paris Climate Summit committed to phase-out of fossil fuels and to shift to 100 percent renewable energy sources. This may be the greatest fast the world ever experiences. Pictured are Maryknoll Sisters Becky Macugay and Marvie Misolas with Naomi Klein, author of “This Changes Everything,” in Paris, November 30, 2015.

“Farmers can’t get their usual harvest and food prices are rising. People who had three meals a day now eat only twice a day. And people who had two meals a day now eat only once a day. This is especially tragic for people with HIV / AIDS who are taking antiretroviral therapy. Regular meals are an important part of their treatment. Without proper nutrition, their immunity is compromised further.”

In Haiti, “there are hopeful signs [of environmentally sustainable development] since the earthquake in 2010,” Maryknoll Affiliate Renate Schneider said. “Solar-powered streetlights are more evident, not only in Port au Prince, but also in the provinces. In Haiti, where electricity is still rationed, they provide a sense of security and also allow students to study under the streetlights when they have no electricity at home.”

Aware of these realities, our faith tradition offers three Lenten practices that can empower our change and renewal:

Fasting is a powerful act of setting straight our priorities. Consider making a long-term fast of eating less meat and fewer dairy products. According to data from United Nations agencies, greenhouse gas emissions from the production and distribution chains of meat and dairy products are a major driver of climate change due to,

Almsgiving is the work of justice and compassion toward our neighbor and creation. We can give our voices for environmental justice by urging Congress to support the Clean Power Plan www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/act/advocate. It establishes the first ever national carbon standards and limits on carbon pollution from power plants, which are the

single largest source of carbon pollution in the U.S.

Prayer, the third traditional practice, is our nourishment at all times. Pope Francis' invitation challenges the way we consume,

share, and care for the environment and for each other. Prayer is our source of strength, our time to reflect and to “dig deeper” to find the peace and confidence to face whatever challenges lay before us. *JF*

The Maryknoll Path to Paris study guides, responses to the 2015 UN Climate Summit, include more ideas for personal commitment, prayer, and action: www.bit.ly/ParisStudyGuides.

Explore New Pathways to Our Programs!

These brand new resources provide former facilitators and program participants a way to introduce friends and community members to our transformational ministry. Each pathway offers a taste of the profound prayer, dialogue, and call to engagement that are hallmarks of our longer, deeper programs.



Gather and Go!

(2 versions)

This 2-hour format is designed for the intimacy of a living room. Host 5-10 friends or family members and lead them through a prayerful exploration of one of these current and compelling themes:

Taking Care of Our Common Home (\$10)

Gather a group of friends in your home and open a space for deep sharing and deeper listening about our calling to be keepers of the Earth for the good of all God's creatures.

Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years... —Pope Francis

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” —Matthew 5:5

Universal God, compassionate Holy One, move in us.

Stir our hearts with longing to tend and take care.

Compel us toward one another and more deeply into your merciful heart.

Where do you feel most deeply connected to the Earth?
(Excerpted from Gather and Go)

Taking Mercy to Heart (\$10)

Gather a group of friends in your home and open a space for deep sharing and deeper listening about the power and promise of forgiveness and the need for mercy in our world today.

A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just. —Pope Francis

“Neither do I condemn you.” —John 8: 11

Source of Mercy, soften us.

Open wide our arms that we might drop the weight of guilt, put down the need to blame, and welcome first forgiveness that alone can set us free.

Only through your mercy can we see the way ahead to turn stumbling blocks to stepping stones, to choose another way to be.

How has mercy touched your life?
(Excerpted from Gather and Go)

How Can We Respond to Pope Francis' Call to Care for Our Common Home?

by Cecilia Calvo,
Coordinator of the USCCB Environmental Justice Program

www.usccb.org/cchd



CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



United Workers Association

Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'* (LS), released just this past summer, continues to spark dialogue, reflection, and action. Across the country, Catholics and others are engaging in conversations around the kitchen table, at parish and diocesan gatherings, and with community and government leaders about a central question: how can we respond to Pope Francis' call to care for our common home?

Laudato Si' is addressed to “every person living on this planet,” calling for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. As Pope Francis said during his visit to our nation, “Now is the time for courageous actions and strategies,


aimed at implementing a ‘culture of care’ and ‘an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.’”

Our efforts to care for creation must reflect our love for God and our neighbor, especially the most vulnerable. Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*, said that environmental problems are social problems, and that we cannot address environmental problems in isolation or in a vacuum. Therefore, “social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds” (LS, 219). As individuals, we can take important steps to answer Pope Francis' call to care for our common home by examining our lifestyles, reducing our consumption, and being conscious of our choices. We can

contribute on a broader scale to lasting change by working actively within our communities to address environmental challenges in our neighborhoods, towns, cities, and nation.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)—the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops—is responding to Pope Francis' call to protect our common home by supporting local communities through grassroots organizations to address a range of environmental justice issues. Since 2013, CCHD has invested more than \$3.2 million in community organizations that are supporting and advancing environmental justice across the United States. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis praises local groups that defend the environment and promote the common good (LS, 232). He praises these

groups for making a real difference by creating “a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land.” (LS, 179) The work of these community organizations is critical since, as Pope Francis has pointed out repeatedly, the poor and vulnerable suffer the worst effects of environmental and societal degradation.

In Baltimore, the United Workers Association is an excellent example of how CCHD supports local communities in advocating for sound environmental policies that help create an “ecological culture.” This organization successfully led a campaign to stop what would have been the nation’s largest trash-burning incinerator from being built less than a mile away from two schools. Community members are now in dialogue with the city and other stakeholders to phase out the current incinerator and explore green alternatives. 

How are you responding to Pope Francis’ call to care for our common home?

Pope Francis reminds us that “we must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread” (no. 212).

- Is there a local community organization you can join (or create) to promote the common good and build an integral ecology? To find a CCHD group, look on Poverty USA’s website at www.povertyusa.org. For more inspiration, read the Stories of Hope to learn of the good work being done by other CCHD-funded organizations.
- To start a conversation in your parish or local community, look at the discussion guide and other educational resources on the encyclical on the USCCB Environmental Justice Program website.*
- Learn how Catholic communities around the United States, including parishes, dioceses, schools, and religious communities, are caring for creation, at WeAreSaltAndLight.org.
- Take the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor.** The pledge is a promise and a commitment by Catholic individuals, families, parishes, and organizations to live our faith by caring for God’s Creation and the most vulnerable.

*USCCB Environmental Justice Program website:

www.migrate.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/

**St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor website:

www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/pledge

JustFaith Ministries offers an array of programs that invite people of faith into the heart of mercy.

Make community with those asking deep questions and looking to change their lives. Connect with your brothers and sisters on the margins and find hope together.

Respond to this opportune moment by joining a JFM program:

JustFaith

JustMatters

JusticeWalking

GoodNews People

Engaging Spirituality

An Invitation to the Journey of a Lifetime

Maryknoll Lay Missioners (MKLM) invites JustFaith Ministries’ program graduates to experience a spiritual journey into compassion and an immersion into the lives, culture, faith, and history of the people MLKM serves.

This is an extraordinary invitation to witness mission ministries that respond to basic needs and help to create a more just and compassionate world. Each trip is centered on encounters with “the other” and with God as expressed through sacred stories, traditions, history, and culture.

Learn more at:
www.friendsacrossborders.org/trips/justfaith-ministries-immersion/

Current Immersion Programs:

EL SALVADOR

June 10-19, 2016

Deadline for signing up is March 19, 2016.

CAMBODIA

August 12-21, 2016

Deadline for signing up is May 12, 2016.

Adapting to Climate Change

by **Kimberly Mazyck**,

Relationship Manager, National Partnerships, Catholic Relief Services

www.crs.org



Last summer as I anticipated the publication of *Laudato Si'*, I answered a short quiz about Care for God's Creation posted on the CRS website. I was stunned to learn that more than 150,000 deaths a year are attributed to extreme weather conditions, including changes in temperatures and rainfall. These changes influence the patterns of diseases and how they are transmitted.

I had been slightly more aware about the changing patterns in gardening and seasonal planting, but on a larger level had not thought about overall food production. After taking the quiz, I located some articles about the change in agricultural systems due to climate change. A 2013 United Nations report on food security and climate change identified the major threats to agriculture, which included changes in average temperatures and rainfall, changes in pests and diseases, and the nutritional quality of

some foods. In short, climate change could lead to malnutrition in parts of the world.¹

When Pope Francis released *Laudato Si'*—the long-awaited encyclical on “human ecology,” or the interrelated relationship between humans and the environment—it was an exciting time for the Church and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis says, “Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God.”

In our work, CRS is learning the impacts of climate change on our sisters and brothers overseas. In a watershed project in Malawi, CRS addressed food insecurity by decreasing soil erosion which increased the agriculture yields. In Central America, CRS began to assess the expected impact of climate change on maize and bean production in order to help farmers adapt. This information has enabled

all agricultural decision makers, especially vulnerable farmers, to act and respond to climate change with increased capacity. We will continue to seek solutions for adaptation to climate change around the world.

Visit www.crs.org/climate-change for resources and more information about climate change and CRS' work. Take an extra moment to view the photos and videos which provide you with images and stories from around the world. You will also find the quiz mentioned at this link.



Technicians of Catholic Relief Services and local partner ACUGOLFO analyze a ruined bean harvest of a local farmer who lives at Canton San Francisco, “Caserio Sequia de Agua” (Lack of Water Village) in San Simon municipality. Photo credit: Oscar Leiva-Silverlight for CRS.

¹ Hoffmann, Ulrich, Trade and Environment Review 2013, Wake Up Before It Is Too Late: Make Agriculture Truly Sustainable Now for Food Security in a Changing Climate, Section B: Agriculture - a key driver and a major victim of global warming, in: Lead Article, in: Chapter 1, pp. 3, 5.



This year CRS Rice Bowl's Community Reflections offers an

opportunity to pray and think with our sisters and brothers impacted by climate change. You can find this resource at www.crsricebowl.org/parishes as a link in the Youth and Young Adult Ministry section. While this may have been specifically developed for this audience, parishes and small prayer groups will enjoy it too.

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Mercy at the Margins (\$20)

This is a 4-hour prayerful journey to 2 sites in your local area. Framed as a pilgrimage, 5-10 people travel beyond their familiar circle to bear witness to the cry of the earth and the cries of God's people.

With moving tenderness (Jesus) would remind (the disciples) that each one of them is important in God's eyes. –Laudato Si', 96

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy." –Matthew 5:7

Distraction and greed have torn at the fabric of Life.

These times call us to be menders and weavers, tending to social and natural devastations that leave Planet and People in desperate need of healing mercy.

As we stand *in the tension*, we hear the call to live with greater *intention*.

God of all places and peoples, we pray: Have mercy on us.

Where did you notice the wideness and wildness of God?

(Excerpted from Mercy at the Margins)

With a small group of companions, visit the frayed edges of your local community to prayerfully stand in the gap between what is and what might be.

One Common Home (\$100)

This 8-hour retreat, offers 5-12 people (including one or more facilitators) a prayerful plunge into the troubling reality of global environmental degradation and its link to the suffering and exploitation of God's people.

What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? –Pope Francis

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you. –Isaiah 54:10

Now the forests are dying,
And the creatures are disappearing,
And the humans are despairing.
We have forgotten who we are.

For crimes against Creation and for crimes against humanity we pray,
God have mercy!

How do you see life changing, and what concerns you most deeply?

(Excerpted from One Common Home)

This retreat builds a bridge to the renewed **JustFaith Program: Encouraging a Culture of Care** (available late summer 2016). At least one of the facilitators needs to be a former JustFaith program participant.



Offering of Letters is a Success in 2015!

by **Rev. David Beckmann**,
President, Bread for the World

www.bread.org



breadfortheworld
INSTITUTE



Rev. David Beckmann, President of Bread for the World

Have you ever wondered how important the Bread for the World letters you wrote in your JustFaith Ministries program or in Offerings of Letters are? The success of 2015 show they are incredibly important. Congress finalized many of its 2015 decisions at the end of the year, and we can now celebrate major victories for hungry and poor people!

Bread for the World and its members around the country played an important role in pushing Congress to strengthen tax credits for low-income working people—the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit.

Congress temporarily increased these credits in the depths of the recession, but just last month agreed to make this level of benefits permanent. This legislative achievement will prevent 16 million people (including 8 million children) from falling into, or falling more deeply into, poverty.

Bread for the World, our partners, and people like you also fended off cuts to programs that help hungry and poor people. Despite intense political pressure throughout the last five years, we have succeeded in maintaining a circle of protection around poverty-focused programs. Bread has played a leadership role within the faith community in this effort.

Surprisingly, Congress has actually increased funding for programs that help to reduce hunger and poverty globally in each of the last five years. The \$1.1 billion increase this year included more funding for refugees, for the Central American countries from which most immigrants without documentation are coming, and for global efforts to reduce child malnutrition.

A backroom deal in late December almost reversed the reforms in international food aid from 2014. Shipping companies almost managed to get their subsidies increased. This shift in funding would have resulted in food aid for two million fewer people each year! But Bread for the World members in target states responded quickly. Thanks to Bread and organizations that work with us on this issue, the reforms we won in 2014 are intact.

Earlier in 2015, Bread for the World helped to win a ten-year extension of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, including a new provision to strengthen trade opportunities for farmers, especially women farmers.

Thank you! JustFaith Ministires program participants learn about the importance of engaging in justice work. Many of you continue to be advocates with Bread for the World. I am deeply grateful for your crucial contributions to these remarkable achievements in 2015. Your letters, calls, and financial support are the backbone of Bread's advocacy. With your help, 2015's advocacy clearly benefited many millions of hungry and poor people.

Looking ahead, the 2016 Offering of Letters will focus on nutrition among mothers and children. We will also be calling on you to help win final passage of the Global Food

Security Act and improvements in the programs that provide nutrition to at-risk children in our own country.

We will be pursuing an innovative campaign—Vote to End Hunger—to make hunger an issue in the 2016 elections. Bread for the World and our church partners have already secured video statements from ten presidential candidates on what they would do to provide help and opportunity to hungry and poor people in our country and around the world. Our goal is that the next president will make hunger, poverty, and opportunity a priority, and that Congress and the president together will put us on track to end hunger in the U.S. and worldwide by 2030.

This goal is breathtakingly ambitious, yet feasible—partly because of the crescendo of advocacy victories you have helped Bread achieve. Your generous and active involvement in Bread make it possible to aim high.

I pray that God will bless you and your communities in 2016—and that our loving God will advance and accelerate the great liberation from hunger and poverty that is underway in the world. *JF*



How Can Any One Person Make a Difference?

Given the magnitude and number of challenges and struggles in our world, I often find myself asking this question: "How can any one person make a difference?" Does this sound familiar to you? If so, let me share my way of dealing with this question.

Like you, I want to...

- Bring hope and healing to my world;
- Help the greatest number of people in poverty, in my neighborhood, and across the seas;
- Build a more compassionate neighborhood, country, and world;

- Maximize the potential that there will be long-lasting change (justice) and solutions to poverty and other miseries;
- Form future generations of committed volunteers and justice-inspired philanthropists;
- Ensure my donation dollars have maximum impact.

There is one way I've found that can accomplish ALL of these important goals, and I didn't have to walk it alone!

I know that JustFaith Ministries' programs change people and those people are changing the world. I see it all around me through the work of dozens of JustFaith graduates in my community.

So, here's what I am doing: I am taking action as an individual to make a difference, AND I am using my donation dollars to help support hundreds of others who are doing their part to change the world.

If you truly want to make a difference, then please join me by making a contribution to JustFaith Ministries. Your gift is the **most powerful** way I know to let your dollars work to create the world for which you yearn. You can't do it all by yourself!

Enclosed is a donation envelope. I hope you will consider making a difference by making a gift. More specifically, join me in making a regular monthly contribution through an automatic payment option.

Please fill out the enclosed envelope and return it to the address listed, or make your gift online at justfaith.org/donate.



Thank you for the difference you make!

Peace and Blessings,
Ed Boenisch
Donor and local leader

**Our lives are bound together.
My well-being is woven into yours
and yours into mine. Our well-being
is bound to the well-being of bees
and trees and wolves and water.**

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

(Matthew 5:1-12)

Where do you feel stretched by tension in our world or in your life?

*How are **you** the thread holding together the pieces of Life's tapestry?*

The ties between us may break, the tapestry may tear.
Yet still, always, new threads make their way into the weave, securing the pieces in new ways.

Sometimes we may be those threads, stretching to bring together parts torn from one another. We may struggle to live in the middle – between order and disorder, between what is and what may be.

From mourning to comfort,

From poverty to abundance,

From hunger to fulfillment,

From persecution to celebration,

Blessed are they who know the frayed edges of our world and span them with their lives.

Praised be you, my Lord

With all Your creatures,

Especially Brother Sun,

Who is the day

And through whom You give us light.

And he is beautiful

And radiant with great splendor

And bears a likeness of You, Most High one.

Canticle of Brother Sun, St. Francis of Assisi

Every morning, at 9:15, the staff of JustFaith Ministries gathers in prayer. This morning, my friend and colleague, Mandy, asked us to deeply listen...to the sun.

I have been used to seeing the sun, to feeling the heat of the sun, and even to longing for the sun on days that are darker than this one. I have read about the sun. I studied the sun a little bit in school, long ago. But I have never even considered that I could listen to the sun.

The scientist Honor Hager has focused her life's work on capturing the sounds of space, and Mandy chose to share her TED talk with us today during prayer.

And so, because I gathered with people in love and prayer and listened to the sun, I am a little bit changed. I experience the brightness, and the heat, and the sacredness of the sun in a new way. As a result, I will care for the sun and the earth it warms in a deeper way than I have before.

Isn't this what JustFaith Ministries programs are all about? Together in small groups, we encounter something we may have thought we knew or understood. Then, through our relationships with each other, ritual and prayer, discourse, encounter with a new perspective, and deep, deep listening, what we know is transformed, and who we are in the world changes. We care for each other, for the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters, and for the earth we share in a deeper way.

Just this week, we heard from a group of Christians and Muslims in Columbus, Indiana, who recently completed the JustMatters module "The Sultan and the Saint." They shared in a process that allowed them not just to study an issue—but to deeply listen, to pray, and to encounter. As a result, they have forever changed what they know of each other and their respective faiths, and together they are working in the larger community to build peace and understanding.

Notes

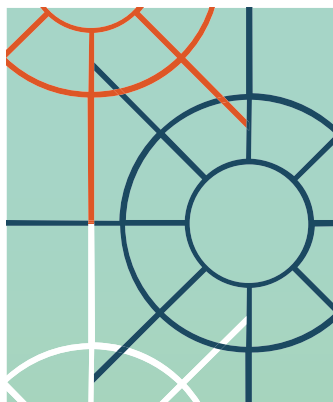
From Jane



JustFaith Ministries creates processes that have invited thousands and thousands of people to listen, pray, gather together, encounter the other, and then—quite simply—to change the way they live in the world.

Because of JustFaith Ministries—today I listened to the sun and was changed. How does JustFaith Ministries influence your days?

Jane



JustFaith Ministries provides graduates of our programs with timely resources through our **GradNet** email.

To receive our bimonthly resource, please email gradnet@justfaith.org

JustFaith Ministries provides resources in addition to Voices for past program participants. If you would like to receive additional resources, please email us at info@justfaith.org with your Name and email address.

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OUR MISSION

JustFaith Ministries is a non-profit organization that forms, informs, and transforms people of faith by offering programs and resources that sustain them in their compassionate commitment to build a more just and peaceful world.

Graphic Design: PLOW Studio, Louisville, KY



Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life. (The Earth Charter)

A new door is being opened to an extraordinary year—a year of turning our minds, our hearts, and our lives around. JustFaith Ministries invites you to try something **new**, **surprising**, and **extraordinary**.



JustFaith Ministries offers three new pathways to introduce and re-introduce faithful people to our unique work and mission. The culmination of these new pathways will be a **renewed** version of the JustFaith program integrating the paradigm of Pope Francis' invitation to **encourage a culture of care**.

Gather & Go: Invite family and friends to an intimate time of prayer and dialogue

Pilgrimage: Journey with family and friends to places in your community that reflect beauty and brokenness.

Retreat: Spend a day with family and friends in prayer, reflection, dialogue and visioning toward a culture of care.

For more information visit us at justfaith.org/pathways, email us at info@justfaith.org, or call 502-429-0865.