



JustFaith Catholic Overview



www.justfaith.org
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In partnership with





Purpose. From a New Perspective.

Just Faith (Catholic) is a mind- and heart-opening journey that invites participants to encounter the Spirit of Jesus in our midst, especially in the lives of people who are poor and vulnerable.

By his words and witness, Jesus inaugurated the Reign of God, bringing to birth a new covenant with our Creator. This kingdom of justice and peace, breaking into our world, invites all of us into right-relationship with our God, with our neighbor, and with life.

Jesus embodied this message of forgiveness and healing, bringing the Good News of God’s mercy and justice to the most vulnerable people— outcasts, strangers and poor people—who were longing for the restoration promised by the prophets. By walking with and visiting people on the margins of society, Jesus brought this hope-filled new perspective to the people of his time.

The JustFaith journey reflects the hopeful message of God’s Reign. Deepening and broadening relationships is central to the JustFaith journey: the relationship of each participant to their own faith journey; relationship within a small community of faith; and relationship with those are poor and vulnerable.

The JustFaith journey is a way of sharing present perspectives, finding new perspectives, and discerning how to respond to the call to discipleship in our blessed, broken, and hungry world.

Understanding the Process

JustFaith is an in-depth, multifaceted, transformational process and a spiritual journey.

Through prayer, reflection, reading, dialogue, and encounters with people living on the margins of society, JustFaith invites participants to explore their path to a life of greater compassion. The focus of the phases is as follows:

PHASE	FOCUS
Phase 1 Compassion and the Option for the Poor (Sessions 1-6)	Orientation. Exploring compassion and the gospel call to respond to the poor and vulnerable. Considering charity and justice, the two feet of social ministry/love in action.
Phase 2 Poverty at Home and Abroad (Sessions 7-12)	Addressing realities of poverty in the U.S. and abroad and considering possible responses through advocacy, organizing and building solidarity.
Phase 3 Identity, Systems, and Structures (Sessions 13-18)	Examining the vision, voice and “identity” we claim and that we assign to others. Considering wealth, inequality, globalization, and the price of goods.
Phase 4 Violence, Nonviolence and Making a New Way (Sessions 19-24)	Revisiting Catholic social teaching related to human dignity and solidarity and addressing issues of poverty, power, and nonviolence. Discussing ways to both live and to help others live a more faithful and fulfilled life.



Phase 5 - Optional but Recommended Faith That Does Justice: Discerning What Next (One day <i>or</i> three 2 hour sessions)	Highly recommended personal and group discernment process to respond to what was learned and to increase one's efforts at putting faith into practice.
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Retreats

The two retreats are central to the JustFaith program. The Opening Retreat is designed to promote supportive relationships and develop trust among participants. This support for and encouragement of community are crucial to the success of the JustFaith journey.

The closing Commissioning Retreat is designed to be a time for celebrating the journey, reflecting on its meaning, and inviting participants into the final Discernment Phase.

Immersion Experiences and Journey to Justice Day

Each phase of the program includes an immersion experience. The four immersion experiences are intended to interweave the lives and stories of JustFaith participants with those living on the margins in the community. Immersion experiences are not service projects or charitable acts; instead, they are to be a time for being *with* (not doing for) people, time to engage with “the other,” time for learning about one another.

One of the immersions will be the Journey to Justice Day, an all-day event planned with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). It is recommended that the Journey to Justice Day be held as the Phase 2 immersion.

Spiritual Practices

JustFaith offers a spiritual practice for each of the first four phases. These practices invite participants to connect with the theme of each phase in a deep and personal way.

Resources: Books, DVDs and Online Material

Books, DVDs, and online resources have been carefully chosen to both inspire and challenge. All resources are intended to open dialogue that encourages participants to consider how they may follow more faithfully in the footsteps of Jesus. Facilitators and participants will access online resources through a link to a special web page.

Session Components

Team Facilitation

JustFaith is best led by a team of two co-facilitators. This team will guide the process and cultivate respectful relationships within the group. As a team, they can decide how to take responsibility for different parts of the program.

Prayers and Rituals

Jesus' earthly mission was grounded in prayer; so too, is the JustFaith journey. Each session begins and ends with prayer. Groups regularly use simple symbols and rituals during prayer; all needed prayer items are listed in the session checklists.



Building Community to Enhance the Journey

The JustFaith journey most often embodies elements of questioning, challenge, risk, and vulnerability, as well as moments of great insight, joy, and spiritual growth. Heart-sharing and active listening are important practices to nurture throughout the process. Ideally, each JustFaith group will develop into a caring, small community of faith that supports each participant through these experiences.