

## **Partner Profiles—Compassion for the People and the Planet**

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JustFaith Ministries works in close collaboration with the following organizations. Each of these organizations addresses issues related to poverty and actively engages some of the key themes of Christian social justice through their work. These brief profiles (providing different information at the end of each phase of the JustFaith program) are offered to help you understand how these organizations make an option for (and with) the poor and how they connect human life and dignity with compassion through their work.

### **Bread for the World**

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger and poverty at home and abroad. In his 2015 encyclical, Pope Francis observes that environmental and social problems are interconnected. Pope Francis writes, "it is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems (Paragraph 139)."

Bread for the World believes we can end hunger in our time. But ending hunger requires more than just giving people a meal today, it requires addressing the root causes of hunger. As long as people don't have the resources they need to put food on the table, hunger will continue. Churches around our country engage in the corporal work of mercy by feeding the hungry; likewise Bread for the World churches often operate food pantries and soup kitchens. But as part of their faithful witness, Bread churches also engage in policy advocacy to ensure economic security and self-sufficiency over the long-term for people in the U.S. and around the world.

While we recognize that the world as a whole has been making unprecedented progress against hunger, poverty, and disease, we believe it is possible to make further progress in addressing the 815 million people who experience hunger every day. In the United States, one in every five kids lives at risk of hunger. Our federal government must do its part to change policies, programs, and systems that allow hunger and poverty to exist. Recently, Bread for the World has done extensive study which highlights that decent jobs are critical to ending hunger both in the United States and in developing countries. Jobs that provide dignity and a living wage are crucial to building shared and sustained prosperity and to ending hunger. You can read more at *The Jobs Challenge: Working to End Hunger by 2030*.

Bread for the World equips and mobilizes ordinary Christians to raise their voices before our political decision makers and to make ending hunger a priority for our nation. Each year, we invite churches to make an Offering of Letters to Congress on an issue directly connected to hunger and poverty. With hundreds of thousands of letters to Congress, we help shape our laws so they are more just and merciful toward all of God's people.

For more information, visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

## Maryknoll

Together, the compassion of the Maryknoll mission organizations – Maryknoll Sisters, Maryknoll Lay Missioners, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, the Maryknoll Affiliates movement – transforms lives and transforms our Earth. We invite you to learn more about us at [www.maryknoll.org](http://www.maryknoll.org).

The mission work done by Maryknoll in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the U.S., with people who live in poverty and exclusion, cannot help but call forth compassion. This compassion grows into a revolution of tenderness for all who are suffering and vulnerable – including our Earth. It spurs us to join together in seeking solutions that can result in lives of greater dignity and hope for all of us. For the world to live in peace and the Earth to flourish, we all must be involved in respecting and nurturing the connection and responsibility we have to one another and to creation.

The journeys of the Maryknoll Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Lay Missioners, and Affiliates, made in imitation of Christ, carry them deeply into the lives and hearts of others. Through these experiences, the “otherness” drops away. The missionaries start to see that much of the brokenness, the lack of opportunity, and the obstacles to a fullness of life that the people they grow to love face, are bigger than questions of culture and faith. They see firsthand that the roles of various structures and systems also need to be understood and addressed — and addressed together because they are too big for any of us to face alone. This is why the Maryknoll mission organizations together form the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, an advocacy office to carry the experiences of missionaries from around the world to policy makers in Washington, D.C., and at the United Nations.

Together we can carry on the mission of Jesus embodied in Catholic social ministry. Together we pray, study, and act for a just and peaceful world.

We invite you to join us:

- in service on short- or long-term international mission experiences with [www.friendsacrossborders.org](http://www.friendsacrossborders.org) or <http://www.mklm.org/become-a-missioner/> or <http://maryknollmissiontrips.org>;
- in reflection with missionaries on latest trends in mission during week-long residential programs with <https://maryknollsisters.org/maryknoll-mission-institute-2/>;
- in education for parish and school ministers through classes with <http://www.maryknoll.us/>;
- in online social analysis and advocacy with [www.maryknollogc.org](http://www.maryknollogc.org);
- in formation of faith and action in small groups with <http://maryknollaffiliates.org/>

Come and join us! “Let us sing as we go,” Pope Francis writes in *Laudato Si'*. “May our struggles and our concern for this planet [and for each other] never take away the joy of our hope!”

## JustFaith Ministries Profile

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**JustFaith Ministries** exists to form, inform and transform people of faith by offering programs and resources that sustain them in their compassionate commitment to build a more just and peaceful world.

Over 50,000 people nationwide have participated in various JustFaith Ministries programs in over 1,500 churches across the country, experiencing and responding to Christ's call to care for the poor and vulnerable.

We are a non-profit organization, relying on the generosity of our program participants to sustain our work. With this support, JustFaith Ministries offers programs that provide opportunities for individuals to study and be formed by the justice tradition articulated by the Scriptures, the church's historical witness, theological inquiry and church social teaching. JustFaith Ministries programs help individuals integrate their personal spirituality with social commitment, leading to active involvement in their communities.

JustFaith Ministries programs are tools that have proven time and again to be effective strategies for training and forming individuals as agents of social transformation. Our current programs include:

- **JustFaith:** a small-group program that develops leaders for church- and community-based social ministry
- **Engaging Spirituality:** a small-group spiritual journey that explores the connection between prayerful presence and social action
- **JustMatters:** a series of topical modules that allow small groups to give sustained attention to a specific area of social concern or social ministry, culminating in a call to engaged action
  - Hunger for Change: A Faithful Response to Food Insecurity
  - Exploring Migration: A Faith Journey
  - Cultivating Nonviolence, Harvesting Peace
  - The Sultan and the Saint: Bringing Christians and Muslims together for dialogue

JustFaith participant involvement in social ministry activities is vast. Participants report working on issues of homelessness and poverty; advocating for hunger relief at the local, national and international levels; doing mission work in Haiti, Central America, rural America, Asia and Africa; standing in solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters; becoming ambassadors for fair trade and micro-businesses; developing prison ministry and advocating for the end of the death penalty; advocating for sensible gun laws; and many other activities.

We are so pleased that you have chosen to participate in this JustFaith Ministries program. Welcome to the JFM community, bringing compassion and justice to our world in need. We hope you will be informed and transformed by this journey and willing to share your story with us!

## Stay Connected—Join the JustFaith Network

**Join the JustFaith Network**, a community of people compelled by the Gospel to build a more just and peaceful world. Together we can prepare each other to take action for social change, challenge each other to live differently, and sustain each other as we work for social justice.

### JustFaith Network Benefits

Join and support this growing community! JustFaith Network members will

- Receive a monthly resource via email
- Have access to online resources and networking opportunities.
  - Benefits include access to an archive of individual and small group resources including prayers, meditations, small group activities, retreat outlines, book/music/art discussion guides and more
  - Access to an online tool that allows members to connect with each other regionally and through areas of interest (ex: fair trade, hunger, immigration, prison ministry)
- Any individual or household who makes a donation is a member for a year and will be given the opportunity to renew annually
- Current program facilitators are automatically members for the year that they facilitate a JustFaith Ministries program.