

Just Faith

FAITH & POVERTY:
A SOLIDARITY RESPONSE
THROUGH CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

 *Just Faith*
MINISTRIES

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Faith & Poverty

A Solidarity Response

This second eight-session program of the JustFaith Catholic series introduces participants to common hurdles that people experiencing poverty often face. In addition to the readings, group members engage in prayer and reflection around Catholic social teaching throughout the week between sessions. Participants emerge from this program better equipped to help alleviate poverty in their communities, as well as stand in solidarity with those experiencing poverty.

Program Outline

Session 1: Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

Participants review group guidelines for holy conversations. They then learn about and discuss the biblical and theological basis for advocating for the rights of workers.

Session 2: The Cost to Live

The group explores the cost of living in their communities, as compared to the standard income of low-wage workers. Participants then discern ways to advocate for living wages and stand in solidarity with workers in poverty.

Session 3: The Social Safety Net

Participants learn about public benefits. Who is eligible? How much do they receive? What is it like to live on public benefits?

Session 4: The Cliff Effect

The group learns about a common obstacle that traps people in the “welfare system,” keeping them from better wages and a better quality of life. Participants then explore ways they work alongside those experiencing poverty to eliminate this barrier to financial health.

Session 5: Poverty and Health

After hearing from a guest speaker from the local community, participants learn about the detrimental effects of poverty on health. The group then brainstorms ways to ensure access to physical, emotional, and spiritual care for all people.

Session 6: Trauma and Addiction

Participants learn about a common correlation between trauma, addiction, and poverty. They then envision ways to improve access to mental health care for those experiencing poverty, as well as support those in recovery.

- Immersion Experience In Local Community -

Session 7: Housing

The group explores systemic barriers that keep people from accessing affordable housing and envisions ways in which they can help reduce homelessness in their own communities.

Session 8: Grassroots Organizing 101

The group learns how to mobilize others to create sustainable change in their local communities.

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Participant Information

Program Host & Location:

Meeting Dates & Times

Local Program Contact:

Books

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City
Matthew Desmond

Beyond Empowerment: A Pilgrimage with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Jeffrey Odell Korgen

Catholic Social Teaching Spiritual Practice Resource
Compiled by Susie Tierney

“The JustFaith series provided a sort of epiphany to my role in the world. I realized that I am called to make the most of everything God has given me in order to be better equipped to address the needs of the world. I felt a permission to simply be and to serve. I don’t have to figure it out; I just have to be present and answer whatever need God puts in front of me.”

Melissa B., Participant

Learn more about program costs and facilitating a group...

Facilitation & Facilitation Support

Two volunteer facilitators are needed. There is strong facilitation support from JustFaith Ministries, including:

A Facilitation Overview / Comprehensive Session Outlines
Full Access to JFM Support Staff / Training Videos
Promotion Kits / Promotion Support / Monthly Update Emails

Registration and Prices

Visit us online at www.JustFaith.org to learn more about group and participant prices.

Program Goals

The second eight-session program of the JustFaith Catholic series, **Faith and Poverty: A Solidarity Response** explores local poverty and introduces participants to the tips and tools they need to respond.

This program seeks to help participants:

- *Learn about the experiences of people in poverty*
- *Have a better understanding of dynamics that make it difficult for many to move out of poverty*
- *Discern personal and social actions to address poverty in your local community*

Sessions Include

- Prayer and Reflection
- Discussion of Reading
- Faith Integration
- Videos and Group Activities
- Spiritual Practices
- Guest Speakers

