

# JustFAITH

## THE OVERVIEW

*This Catholic version of JustFaith is offered in partnership with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services. An ecumenical version is also available through the JustFaith Ministries Office.*

## A Journey into the Gospel Invitation to be a People of Compassion

Our Catholic faith and Biblical tradition extend an extraordinary invitation to each of us and our faith communities to become agents of God's compassion and healing in a wounded world. The Good News of Christ is both a comfort and a promise for the poor and, at the same time, a call to those of us who are not poor to be linked with God's vision of justice and reconciliation. The Church's history shines with examples of courage and commitment of those who addressed themselves to the needs of our most desperate sisters and brothers.

JustFaith<sup>®</sup>, a thirty-week adult formation program, offers an opportunity for parishioners to experience a spiritual journey into compassion. Most of us long to be a generous and compassionate people; however, the occasions to explore this faith tradition in a deliberate and engaging way have largely not been available. JustFaith, now offered in parishes and dioceses across the country, provides a lively and challenging format to read, view, discuss, pray, experience and be formed by the faith tradition that changes lives, inspires compassion, and transforms the world through love and service.

JustFaith was first introduced nationally in 2001 with the sponsorship of Catholic Charities USA; it was immediately and dramatically successful in hundreds of Catholic parishes. Since then, nearly 900 parishes around the country have had similar results. Because of the tremendous impact and success of JustFaith, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities USA, and Catholic Relief Services are all partners with JustFaith and actively support and promote this program.

## THE PROGRAM

*Engaging in the Church's social mission is without argument one of the most challenging messages of our Gospel tradition.*

*JustFaith is a process that recognizes the complexity of the call to compassion and provides a wide range of compelling resources and experiences to communicate this tradition.*

*The prophetic call to bring justice to a broken world deserves a preparation that honors the difficulty of the task.*

JustFaith is an educational experience, a formation process and a spiritual journey. Over the course of seven to eight months, participants gather weekly for prayer, discussion of books and videos, presentations by guest speakers, retreats, and immersion experiences. The intent is to provide a tapestry of learning opportunities that emphasize and enliven the remarkable justice tradition of the Church. Participants are not only exposed to a substantive course of study but also are afforded the privilege of becoming a small faith community with other participants and sharing a journey of faith and compassion that is both life-giving and challenging.

JustFaith is usually facilitated by parishioners so it does not create added responsibilities for parish staff. The program can also be adapted for use in other settings including diocesan-sponsored programs and small faith communities.

## INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

It is suggested (but not required) that clusters of parishes and/or the diocese schedule an introductory workshop. The aim of the workshop is to excite parishioners about the rich tradition of the Church's social mission and the possibilities of JustFaith. The workshop covers the theological tradition on which the program is based, stories of the impact of JustFaith, and the logistics of how to get started and implement the program.

Workshops typically last three to four hours and can be held on weekends or weekday nights. The cost of the workshop is \$650 plus travel expenses. Most parishes recoup most or all of the expenses of the workshop by charging a modest registration fee.

## GETTING STARTED

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The cost for a parish to register for JustFaith for 2008-09 is \$300. Parishes or groups that use JustFaith are provided a wide range of support services. Comprehensive materials are provided and include detailed syllabus segments, facilitation training and directions, prayer materials, retreat instructions and follow-up opportunities. An e-mail discussion list linking all facilitators across the country is also provided. JustFaith staff members offer full-time telephone assistance to answer questions and assist with any issues that arise in the process of preparing for or implementing the program. Other costs associated with the program include books and videos, which can all be purchased from a single source. For more information on the program, how to get started, or for a registration form, contact the JustFaith Ministries office or visit the JustFaith Web site, [www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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JustFaith Ministries also offers: justice formation programming for high school students entitled *JusticeWalking*, a skill-building program for adults interested in parish social ministry named *JustSkills*, and six to eight week formation programs on current issues called *JustMatters*.

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## JUSTFAITH MINISTRIES WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

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Catholic Campaign for Human Development



Catholic Charities USA



Catholic Relief Services

These organizations are committed to reversing the effects of poverty, locally, nationally, and/or globally and are major contributors to both the vision and content of JustFaith.



JustFaith is trademarked. Any parish or group interested in JustFaith programs is required to request permission for their use.