

JustFAITH

Getting Started: Testimonies 2011-12

In partnership with:



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.



With additional support from:  Catholic Charities USA.

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JustFaith Ministries
P.O. Box 221348
Louisville, KY 40252
(502) 429-0865
www.justfaith.org
info@justfaith.org

JustFaith Ministries works in cooperation with the partner organizations listed on this page and receives over half of its funding in the form of charitable contributions from program graduates.

Testimonies

Karen Simon, JustFaith graduate

Among other things, the JustFaith process has given me a deeper commitment to serve the poor and marginalized in our community. We did an immersion experience with our St. Camillus French-African community in which we listened to the stories of some of those who have been persecuted, tortured and had to flee from their homelands and are now political refugees in our community. That day, my heart was “broken open.” I have since been richly blessed by the close relationships I have with some from this community . . . people who have taught me the true meaning of deep faith and trust in God. I feel called to be an advocate for and to be a companion on life’s journey with my new friends.

Jim Cullen, JustFaith graduate

We read. We talked about what we read. And we prayed. We were confused, sometimes. We were surprised, even shocked at other times. We prayed. All of us, in some way, were changed.

Fr. Dan Divis, pastor

I would call it the new Pentecost. But, the reality is, it is these (JustFaith) people who are willing to come together, question the questions, and look at the issues, make some changes, and challenge things. It is a Pentecost, it's a new life, it's energy. It has changed the parish, it has changed me.

Jenny Haliski, JustFaith graduate

Through JustFaith I have developed a greater awareness of how excessive consumption in the U.S. is tied to an unequal distribution of the world’s resources, global poverty and hunger. I now do my best to consider whether the corporations I support with my purchases act responsibly on a range of social issues and to reduce my consumption so that others may have enough.

Elizabeth Gordon-McNeil, JustFaith graduate

After going through JustFaith, I can never look at a homeless person and walk past and dismiss him or her again.

Fr. Tim Taugher, pastor

The people from my parish talk about their hearts being transformed, their way of thinking being transformed, their spirituality being transformed. Now their lives are committed to justice and the spirituality of justice.

Ruby Tynes, JustFaith graduate

JustFaith has opened my eyes to poverty, abuse of citizens, world trade issues, and ways in which we can serve those less fortunate than ourselves. Everything we own is a gift and these gifts are to be shared.



Helene Sparaco, JustFaith graduate

I have come to see that one person can effect change.

Laura Stark, JustFaith graduate

JustFaith opened my eyes to the poor with a heart of compassion! I can clearly see that I am a sister to all, the oppressed and the oppressor.

Pat Bowles, JustFaith graduate

JustFaith was an avenue by which I could discover who I am/am not, explore simplicity, define a life purpose, develop a social consciousness, experience compassion, build community, and rediscover prayer. JustFaith was a life-changing course of study; it awakened the Spirit within me and opened my mind and heart.

Jeanie Wood, JustFaith co-facilitator

As a co-facilitator of a JustFaith group, I want to convey my excitement, enthusiasm and profound gratitude for this unique and remarkable experience. JustFaith is a beautiful gift containing just what each participant needs for a fuller, richer, faith life. I found it to be a well-constructed, very creative course. Through its beautiful symbolic prayers, informative readings and videos, lively discussions as well as practical experiences in helping others, it has deepened my awareness of the needs of the poor and vulnerable here in Fairfax County and the rest of the world too. If you really want to put your faith into action JustFaith is just what you need!

Patty Bowman, parish staff person

I'm so grateful for this program. Already, in two years and with just a handful of people involved, we've seen real growth and change as a result of this program here at St. James. We are in the midst of celebrating our centennial as a parish, and as part of that centennial process, we have declared this year "A Year of Prayer and Renewal." Although we did not embark on JustFaith in particular as a way to live out that year of prayer and renewal, that is exactly what has happened. One participant (a women in her mid-60's) told me that she has experienced more spiritual growth during her year in JustFaith than she has at any other time in her life as a Catholic. As the facilitator of the process, I was profoundly moved by that.

