

JustFAITH JustSKILLS

Practices and Tools for Parish Social Ministry

THE OVERVIEW

“... We believe the Church's social mission is an essential measure of every parish community, and it needs more attention and support within our parishes.”

“We need to build local communities of faith where our social teaching is central, not fringe; where our social ministry is integral, not optional; where it is the work of every believer, not just the mission of a few committed people and committees.”

*Communities of Salt and Light:
Reflections on the Social Mission
of the Parish, U.S. Catholic Bishops.*

The JustSkills program was developed in response to requests by JustFaith graduates for help in developing skills for doing the work of effective social ministry within their parishes.

This program offers a comprehensive approach to social ministry. It provides opportunities for leadership development and for participants to learn about the practices and tools for parish social ministry. In so doing, JustSkills broadens and enhances the parish and diocesan commitment to social ministry and helps make the experience and practice of one's faith more life-giving.

The JustSkills program is designed for JustFaith grads and others who are interested in developing an effective and comprehensive social ministry program in their parish or church or enhancing their present social ministry program. JustSkills groups can be formed within a single parish, from multiple parishes or with individuals from across a diocese.

PROGRAM BUILDING BLOCKS



JustSkills consists of twenty weekly sessions and two retreats. In the course of eight months, participants engage in skills building that calls them to action and contemplation, both of which allow the work of social ministry to be done with increased effectiveness, insight and wisdom.

Topics for skills development are based on the U.S. Catholic bishops' vision for parishes outlined in their document, *Communities of Salt and Light*. These topics include: strategies for building effective social ministry within the parish, community organizing, legislative advocacy, leadership development, justice education, prayer leadership, and global solidarity. Participants in the JustSkills program are expected to commit to the following: dialogue and active listening, prayer formation and spiritual reflection; facilitation; weekly reading; attendance at sessions and retreats; and, researching and presenting a key social issue. Participants are also expected to make a commitment to support the group.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The cost to register for JustSkills each year is \$200.00. (If your parish is also doing JustFaith or Engaging Spirituality, a discount is available. Please inquire with the JustFaith Ministries office.) Additional costs associated with the program include books and videos, both of which can be purchased from a single source, and possibly some cost associated with the opening and closing retreats. Groups that register for JustSkills are provided a wide range of support services. Comprehensive materials are provided and include detailed syllabus segments, facilitation directions, retreat instructions and follow up opportunities. In addition, JustFaith Ministries staff offers full-time telephone assistance to answer questions and assist with any issues that arise in the process of preparing for or implementing the program.

To find out how to get started or for a registration form, contact the JustFaith Ministries office or visit the JustFaith Web site, www.justfaith.org.

OTHER JUSTFAITH MINISTRIES PROGRAMS

JustFaith Ministries also offers: an exploration of the Gospel's invitation to be a people of compassion called JustFaith, justice formation programming for high school students entitled JusticeWalking, a spirituality program based on ancient and contemporary wisdom known as Engaging Spirituality, and six- to eight-week formation programs on current issues called JustMatters.

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

JUSTFAITH MINISTRIES WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Catholic Campaign
for Human Development



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These organizations are committed to reversing the effects of poverty locally and/or globally and are major contributors to both the vision and content of JustSkills: Practices and Tools for Parish Social Ministry.