

Just FAITH

Empowering People of Faith to Develop a Passion and Thirst for Justice.

"The Parable of the River Children"

One summer in the village, the people gathered for a picnic. As they leisurely shared food and conversation, someone noticed a child in the river, struggling and crying out for help. The child was going to drown!

Someone rushed to save the child. Then, they noticed another crying child in the river, and they pulled that child out. Soon, more children were seen drowning in the river, and the townspeople were pulling them out as fast as they could. It took great effort, and they began to organize their activities to save the children as they came down the river. As everyone else was busy in the rescue efforts, two townspeople started to run away along the shore.

"Where are you going?" shouted one of the rescuers. "We need you here to help us save these children!"

"We are going upstream," they shouted back, "to stop whoever is throwing them in!"

Where do you see yourself in this story? Are you saving children who need immediate attention or are you rushing upriver to see the source of the problem? Or have you just never noticed the children in the river? JustFaith offers an opportunity for parishioners to answer these questions. You are invited to go on a rich spiritual journey and look more closely at the troubling issues of our times through the lens of compassion and Catholic social teaching. JustFaith provides a lively and challenging format to read, discuss, pray, experience and be formed by our faith tradition that, when lived out, changes lives, inspires faithful witness, and transforms the world through love and service.

Our Catholic faith and biblical tradition extend an extraordinary invitation to each of us and to 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. JustFaith asks for a considerable commitment. The process involves thirty weekly sessions, retreats and immersion experiences. In addition, participants are expected to do one to two hours of reading each week. Participants have the privilege of being nurtured by a small faith community as they journey through this program. Former participants have said it is the best and most meaningful formation experience they have had, and they eagerly looked forward to each weekly meeting.

The JUSTFAITH program will begin on 9/25/08 and end on 5/28/09.

It is limited to the first 15 registrants.

The cost, which includes 12-13 books, is approximately \$145. All those interested should call S. Mary Pung, CSJ 926-6424 (day) 926-6483 (night) or Julie Leahy 428-5145 OR fill in the registration form on reverse side and someone will contact you with more information. Turn form into collection basket or parish office by September 16, 2008 to help facilitate planning.

JustFaith Ministries works in partnership with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services.



Catholic Campaign for Human Development
UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



You are invited to participate in an intensive formation program for people who want to encounter the Good News that Jesus brought to the poor.

JustFAITH

Why Participate?

- To gain a better understanding of the Church's social mission from Scripture, the Church's historical witness, and Catholic social teaching.
- To integrate personal spirituality and social ministry

What Is Involved?

- Weekly 2-1/2 hour meetings
- Retreats in September and May
- Four immersion experiences
- Weekly reading
- Cost: \$145 per person for books (paid in installments)

Who Should Participate?

- People who want to learn more about the Church's social mission
- People who are looking for spiritual growth
- People who want to experience their faith in community

You!

Get More Information?

- Stop at the *JustFaith* table after Mass on the weekend of 9/6—9/7 OR 9/13—9/14
- Come to an information session on 9/18 from 6:30-8:30 pm. at St. Bernard's Hall
- Contact S. Mary Pung, CSJ Day-926-6424 Night -926-6483 OR Julie Leahy 428-5145

When Will We Meet?

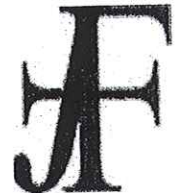
- Thursday evenings, September 2008-May 2009 (Limited to the first 15 people)

Think It's Too Much?

- It's like taking a college course or a year-long adult education class.
- It's similar to what we ask of our Confirmation candidates and RCIA participants.

It asks a lot for 8 months – but it's only 8 months.

It will be one of the most rewarding things you'll ever do!



Registration/Interest Form for JustFAITH 2008-2009

Name: _____ Phone: _____
e-mail: _____

I'm interested in: _____ Participating Thursday evenings this year
_____ Please have someone contact me about the JustFaith Program

Kindly Respond by September 16, 2008 to facilitate planning.