

## 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 our faith communities and each of us 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.

God has made each of us with an appetite or an inclination to be connected with each other. When we talk about the work of social ministry or social action, essentially what we are talking about is **how we are about each other's care.**

What we call social concern, social ministry, social action, social justice or social charity are expressions of what it means to be connected with each other and that is how we are made.

We have a script in our cells crafted by God that says

*"I am making you in a way that you will be most satisfied and most fulfilled when you are part of a community that takes very seriously its commonness and its solidarity."*

## WHAT IS SOCIAL ACTION FOR EQUALITY?

The SOCIAL ACTION FOR EQUALITY is a group of Christians in a local church who work together for peace and justice, living in a world torn by war, hatred, oppression, racism, poverty, and other social ills. We want Jesus' prayer, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," to be more than words on our lips.

We know that God's kingdom will come in its fullness only by God's action. But, with Christ's help, we want to do our part to make this earth more like that kingdom.

We have caught a vision of a world where the sacred human dignity of every person is respected, where justice is more the norm, where the earth is being freed from the torment of war, where people are learning to live in harmony with the environment, where all are moving toward full equality of opportunity and responsibility.

We know that the poor can be harmed by individual acts of cruelty or indifference, as in Jesus' parable of Lazarus and the rich man. But we are challenged by the realization that many more are damaged by laws and social policies that fail to provide the poor with adequate housing, education, medical care, and other supports for their human dignity.

August, 2010

# SAFE

## SOCIAL ACTION FOR EQUALITY

BECOME AGENTS OF GOD'S  
COMPASSION AND HEALING IN A  
WOUNDED WORLD

through the

## *Just*Faith Program



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## THE *Just*FAITH PROGRAM:

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

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

*Just*FAITH is an adult educational and formational program that offers an opportunity for parishioners to experience a spiritual journey into compassion. Most of us long to be generous and compassionate people, however, occasions to explore this spiritual journey into compassion in a deliberate and engaging way have largely not been available.

*Just*FAITH provides a lively and challenging format to read, view, discuss, pray, experience and be formed by the justice tradition that change lives, inspires faith witness, and transforms the world through love and service.



*“Love your neighbor as yourself” is the great commandment. But in my busy life, who really is my neighbor and what does my faith say I should do for my neighbor?*

*Just*FAITH is an extensive, conversion-based process that provides a context in which participants can grow in their commitment to care for the vulnerable and to become advocates for justice. This program serves to strengthen the growing commitment of parishes to be agents of social transformation, mercy and compassion.

*Just*FAITH consists of thirty (30) weekly, 2.5 hour sessions and takes advantage of the best forms of adult learning including books, videos, guest speakers, discussion, prayer, two weekend retreats and four 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 and demanding course of study but are also afforded the privilege of becoming community with other participants and sharing a journey of faith and compassion that is both life-giving and challenging.

The call of our faith to bring justice to a broken world deserves a preparation that honors the complexity of this task.

## THE “TYRANNY OF SMALL EXPECTATIONS.”

There is an assumption on the part of all of us and parish clergy and ministers that people are very busy. Therefore, if we are going to do anything in parishes, it has to be abbreviated, short and not very demanding. The thinking is. “If we are going to get people to our event, it can’t be

very big because people do not have that kind of time.” This is called the “tyranny of small expectations.”

When you dig a little deeper underneath how busy people are, you learn that part of the busyness is 10 hours of watching television each week, 2 videos and golf once or twice per week. Yes, people live busy lives, but they are also able to prioritize.

Asking a greater commitment of some people results in a greater commitment from them.

Are you ready to make a greater commitment to learning more about your faith and the call to agents of social transformation, mercy and compassion?

If you are, the *Just*FAITH Program may be the next step in your faith journey.

**Please see the attached *Just*FAITH information sheet.**

## CONTACTS:

For more information on SAFE and the *Just*FAITH Program, please contact one of the following:

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*50% of the world lives in abject poverty. What does our Catholic faith call us to do to change this situation and help our brothers and sisters in need?*