

FOUR PARISH LIFE AND JUSTICE SESSIONS

Each 2 hour Session (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM) has the following (times can be adjusted):

- 1 – Prayer at beginning and end
- 2 – A Biblical Reading and Reflection
- 3 – Excerpts from Catholic Social Teaching Documents
- 4 – “Communities of Salt and Light”; Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish
- 5 – Focus Questions, Conversation, and Shared Reflections: What did I learn tonight about my life or life beyond my life? How did God challenge or stretch me tonight?

Session 1: Biblical Stories of Discipleship and Service: The cost and the risk: Annunciation / Visitation, Rich Young Man; Good Samaritan; Beatitudes; Lazarus; Matthew 25; Raising of Widow’s Son

- Willingness to see myself in the story; Inter-personal, Transformational
- “We have the gift, the poor have the need becomes we have the need, the poor have the gift.”
What is the gift of the poor that we need?

Session 2: What makes our Parish Catholic? Jesus’ Counter-Cultural Ministry Revealed in Luke: Mealing and Healing

- Sacraments and Social Justice; Mass is ended, the Service begins
- Eucharist: Body of Christ for the Body of Christ – Receiving Holy Communion to Live in Holy Communion.
- “Eucharist commits us to the poor.” Catholic Catechism

Session 3: The Work of the Church happens Outside of the Church – a consistent Ethic of Life

- Charity to Justice – A journey of the heart; Symptom to dis-ease; What to Why
- Visible to Invisible; Effect to Cause; Personal to Structural
- Community Organizing – The Path to Social Justice and the transformation of society into a more just image of the Kingdom of God

Session 4: Practical Steps to Begin or Deepen Life and Justice Ministry in your Parish

“For too many parishioners, our social teaching is an unknown tradition. In too many parishes, social ministry is a task for a few, not a challenge for the entire parish community. We believe we are just beginning to realize our potential as a community of faith committed to serve those in need and to work for greater justice. The Parishes that are leaders in this area see social ministry not as a specialized ministry, but as an **integral** part of the entire Parish.” U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1993

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