

JUST FAITH TESTIMONIALS

“Early in the process, I ran across the expression, ‘Prejudice does not survive proximity’, and this was exactly what happened to me. The reading, the videos, and especially the personal encounters facilitated by the JustFaith program created ‘proximity’ for me. Suddenly the immigrant wasn’t a tweet or a Facebook post – they were standing in front of me, telling me their story. The anecdotes and stories that had formed my earlier impressions of the vulnerable and minorities were displaced by facts and realities that I couldn’t ignore. This was eye-opening for me; I felt like the blind man who had been given sight by Jesus. I rediscovered the beauty and truth of Catholic social justice teachings, and will be forever grateful for the transformation that the program began in me. I pray for the wisdom, strength and grace to continue the journey that JustFaith began.”

- Jeff Schulenberg

“I found the JustFaith program to be a life-changing experience, laying to rest my initial worries about a 24-week ‘scripted’ program. Through readings, videos, discussions and immersion experiences throughout the St. Louis area, we were enabled to put a face on many of the marginalized and vulnerable and the problems facing them each and every day, whether they be homeless, immigrants, poverty-stricken, or victims of an unjust society. We became aware of many groups working tirelessly to confront these problems, and are energized as members of the Peace and Justice Committee here at Sacred Heart to create opportunities within our parish and the St. Louis community at large to address, with compassion, the many problems of the underserved. We welcome all to join us!”

- Nancy McKee

“The JustFaith journey was over-whelming, heart-breaking, frustrating, challenging, inspiring, and a whole lot more. It was an overwhelming 24 week commitment that I wasn’t sure I could sustain (but I did!). It was heart-breaking learning so much about the struggles of people on the margins – the poor, the homeless, minorities, immigrants, the incarcerated as well as those recently released from prison, and those exploited by human trafficking and living in war-torn countries. It was frustrating to not have easy solutions to such large problems. It was challenging to think about my life and how I could make changes to avoid viewing people and situations through a single lens and to treat our planet with respect, which as Pope Francis reminds us, is our “common home”. I was awed by people who could find the strength to love and forgive, when hate would be such an easy way to go after the losses they endured. And it was inspiring to learn about the efforts of ordinary people in the world, but especially here in St. Louis where people are doing extraordinary things to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable people and to better our world. And throughout this whole journey, Jesus was front and center. I was reminded again and again of His call to compassion. ‘It is hard work; it is crying out with those in pain; it is tending the wounds of the poor and caring for their lives; it is defending the weak and indignantly accusing those who violate their humanity; it is joining with the oppressed in their struggle for justice; it is pleading for help, with all the possible means, from any person who has ears to hear and eyes to see.’ Compassion (p. 136) I am grateful to have had this experience and to have shared it with a wonderful, compassionate group of people. I am excited to see where Jesus will lead us next.”

- Karen DuBrucq

“My experience with the JustFaith journey resulted in a barrage of feelings, emotions, questions without easy answers, periods of joy, times of frustration, and most of all, a chance to meet a group of truly incredible men and women from Sacred Heart parish. I wasn’t sure I would make it through the 24 week course (I did with the grace of God). At first, I wasn’t even sure I belonged in the same room with these people. They all seemed to be so much more in touch with helping people and I was just floating along in life. I’m glad I stayed because they accepted me right where I was in life and embraced my need for guidance. Through the books we read, video presentations, discussions and immersion experiences, we put names and faces to the poor, the homeless, the marginalized and suffering people of our community and abroad. This was a life-changing experience and I thank God for giving me an opportunity to interact with such a compelling group of people. The Peace and Justice Commission of Sacred Heart parish is making a difference in our parish, our community, our state, our country, and in this beautiful planet God has given us. Please join us!”

- Connie McGuire

“The 24-week JustFaith process flew by and it was difficult to realize it had come to a close. I heartily agree with all the testimonials and want to add that the benefit of being able to express differing views, values, and ideas in a safe and trusting environment was invaluable. It afforded me the opportunity to look at a situation from another’s perspective and to learn how and why one held that perspective and to respect it even if it was vastly different from my own. As a society, we need more opportunities such as JustFaith to allow us to come together as the body of Christ.” Blessings,

-Karen Rothery