



An Interactive Social Justice Curriculum...

- To educate about the root causes of poverty
- To inspire service for neighbors in need
- To empower advocacy for change

“Just Neighbors focuses participants’ gaze on poverty through the lens of faith, Scripture and Catholic social teaching to see it as an affront to God’s children, our brothers and sisters. The program connects people to opportunities and organizations to get involved in reducing poverty.” REV. LARRY SNYDER, President, Catholic Charities USA



This course counts for Equip for Ministry pastoral course on Catholic Social Teachings.



When: Thursdays, April 9, 16, 23, 30; May 7, 14; June 4, 11, 2015

Time: 7-9 p.m.

Where: St. John Regional Catholic School, Media Room
8414 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD 21702

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Contact Info: _____

Parish: _____

Please enclose check for registration fee of \$45 per person payable and mailed to either:
St. John the Evangelist Church, Social Justice Ministry, 112 E. Second St., Frederick, MD 21701, or
St. Katherine Drexel Church, Social Justice Ministry, 8428 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, MD 21702

Just Neighbors Session Descriptions

Special CSTS Content:



SESSION 1: Who is My Neighbor?

People of faith have a responsibility to love all of our neighbors—not just those next door, but anyone in need. In this session, participants are introduced through a video to some of our “neighbors”—three families living in poverty. They see the obstacles the families face each day and discuss how, as people of faith, we are called to help.

Common Good,
Charity & Justice
Good Samaritan:
Luke 10:29-37



SESSION 2: Making Ends Meet

Living in poverty means maintaining a constant financial juggling act, a never-ending struggle to make ends meet. In this session, participants watch a video about a family, and then try to balance the family’s budget, experiencing the nearly impossible financial decisions that low-income families must make on a daily basis.

The Call to Family,
Community & Participation
Wedding Feast at Cana:
John 2:1-3:1



SESSION 3: What Would You Choose?

Is it better for Annie, a single mother struggling to care for her children, to move to a cheaper, but less safe neighborhood, or to spend more hours working away from her children so they can stay where they are? In this session, participants make the tough decisions Annie faces, and feel the stresses and struggles of life below the poverty line.

Solidarity
Road To Emmaus:
Luke 24:13-32



SESSION 4: Does Working Work?

Even full-time employment does not guarantee a successful climb out of poverty. In this session, participants consider the lives of three working families who struggle to meet their basic needs, and understand how trends and changes in employment and wages affect the families who make up the “working poor.”

Dignity of Work &
Rights of Workers
Laborers in the Vineyard:
Matthew 20:1-16



SESSION 5: Housing Matters

The word “home” evokes images of safety, warmth, and love. But for millions of Americans, a decent and affordable home is an impossible dream. In this session, participants examine the nation’s housing crisis and commonly-held myths. Through a video, they learn about ways that communities are responding to the need for housing.

Common Good,
Rights & Responsibilities
Peaceable Kingdom:
Isaiah 11:6-9



SESSION 6: Prejudice, Privilege, and Poverty

Race and poverty have been closely linked throughout the history of the U.S. In this session, a thought-provoking video provides the basis for the group’s discussion. Participants explore the ways that racial discrimination impacts education, employment, and economic opportunities.

Human Dignity,
Personal and Social Sin
One In Christ:
Galatians 3:26-28



SESSION 7: Our Children, Our Future

Childhood should be a time of innocence and joy, a time free from worry and fear. But that is not the case for one in six American children who live in poverty. In a moving video, children show photographs they have taken of their lives, and tell of the harsh realities of growing up poor. And in a creative activity, participants identify the essential elements all children need to thrive.

Option for the poor,
Pastoral Circle
Children’s Requests:
Matthew 7:7-12



SESSION 8: Justice for All?

Over the last several decades, the gulf between the rich and the poor in America has widened. In this session, participants take on the roles of people of different economic status and grapple with the differing ways they are affected by economic trends reflected in the news of the day.

Universal Destiny of
Goods, Stewardship
Honoring Rich & Poor:
James 2:1-9, 14-17



SESSION 9: Stepping Out in Faith

For groups that have completed multiple Just Neighbors sessions, this session is a springboard for further action. Some groups will identify volunteer opportunities and consider ways of becoming involved. Others will develop a plan of action and concrete goals for service or advocacy.

Charity and Justice
Healing the Paralytic:
Mark 2:1-12

“One year ago, we launched the Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America. Our goal is to reduce poverty by 50 percent by the year 2020. The Just Neighbors program can help us to do that.”

REV. LARRY SNYDER, President, Catholic Charities USA