

Experiencing – Reflecting – Transforming

Poverty and Racism

The 2007 Initiative of the Weavers of Justice: A Catholic Social Justice Collaborative



Collaborative Members

- St. Albert the Great
- St. Anthony
- Ascension
- Catholic Social Action
- Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley
- St. Charles Borromeo
- Church of the Incarnation
- Fitz Center for Leadership in Community.
- St. Francis of Assisi
- Mary, Help of Christians
- Our Lady of Mercy
- St. Peter
- Queen of Apostles
- Sisters of the Precious Blood



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Contact information:
Catholic Social Action
937-224-3026
csadayton@catholiccincinnati.org



A Catholic Social Justice Collaborative of the Greater Dayton Area

The Weavers of Justice cultivate vibrant social ministry in greater Dayton by:

Building focused and strategic social justice efforts integral to each parish and pastoral region

Enhancing effectiveness of social justice efforts through coordination of transformative education rooted in scripture and Catholic Social Teaching

Developing an action agenda linking parishes and pastoral regions to regional, national and international efforts addressing critical social justice issues.

If you or your parish is interested in the collaborative, contact the Catholic Social Action office at 937.224.3026 or csadayton@catholiccincinnati.org

Dear Parishes and Parishioners,

Parishes and individuals are invited to engage in a three-step process around the issues of Poverty and Racism.

- Step one is experiential learning.
- Step two is reflection and social analysis.
- Step three is acting for change.

For each step the *Weavers of Justice* have created or suggested activities that will involve hands on experiences (step one), reflection and social analysis (step two), and working for change (step three).

Ideally, parishes will spend a few months participating in experiential learning activities, a few months with reflection activities, and a few months acting for change. The *Weavers of Justice* are committed to being a resource for you throughout this whole process!

Step one: Experiential Learning

The *Weavers of Justice* have suggested six different opportunities for your parish to consider. Each opportunity suggested in this section will provide some kind of “hands-on” experience with the issues of poverty and or racism. A member of the *Weavers of Justice* will be a facilitator or contact person for each suggested activity. If you would like to participate, please contact the person listed.

Step two: Reflection and Social Analysis

The *Weavers of Justice* have collected a variety of books and documents on poverty and racism. These resources help us understand why poverty and racism continue to plague our communities, they offer suggestions for change, and they challenge us to look at our own complicity in these issues. Parishes are encouraged to create opportunities for short, three or four week study groups, using one or more of the texts suggested. You may know of others!

One idea is to take one month and call it the “Justice Read Month” and offer two or three different books. Have people form small reading groups and come together for four weeks in a row to discuss the readings. Discussion questions will be provided and the Weavers can assist you in organizing these efforts at your parish.

Step three: Acting for Change:

The *Weavers of Justice* are developing a concrete social justice issue to work on related to some aspect of poverty and racism. This action agenda will be announced in May at the next full Social Justice Collaborative Meeting. However, there are many opportunities for social justice action so feel free to jump into something right in your own backyard.

A significant event in this whole process:

Distinguished Speaker Series:

Annually the Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley and Catholic Social Action host a distinguished speaker who is an expert on a social justice issue. This fall we will welcome **Alex Kotlowitz** who has published several best-selling books on the topic of poverty and racism. Each parish is strongly encouraged to make this event a priority for your poverty and racism efforts. It will be an incredible evening with hundreds of other people who are concerned about poverty and racism. To prepare for this you might want to consider using one of his books, or showing his video, as a lead-up activity to his presentation.

In this packet you will find a detailed description of the activities we are suggesting. We are NOT suggesting that you do EVERYTHING in this packet! We ARE suggesting that you offer a few options from each category for your parishioners. Do what is most helpful to your congregation and think of ways to make these efforts raise the general awareness level of your congregation to these issues.

Thank you in advance for joining with many other parishes on this important and exciting initiative. We look forward to *doing together what we can't do alone!*

Sincerely,

The Leadership Team of the Weavers of Justice

Experiential Learning Activities



Experiential Learning Opportunities

First Hand Experiences

Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations

The Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations is a 3 week (once a week for 2.5 hours) dialogue between blacks and whites. The group consists of 12 people, 6 white, 6 black and two trained facilitators, who use a curriculum. The dialogue will be hosted at a catholic parish but participants come from all over the city. We need parishes to host these dialogues.

- **Timeline:** Can begin whenever a group is assembled.
- **Contact Catholic Social Action to form a group:** 937-224-3026
- **Cost:** none

StarPower

StarPower is a wealth, poverty, and power simulation. Star Power takes about 3 hours and is done in one evening with a group size of 18-35. This simulation is owned by the Catholic Social Action office and a trained facilitator will lead it for you. StarPower is a real time, face to face, non-computer based simulation of an organization or system in which leaders are given unlimited powers to make and change the rules of the simulation.

The primary goal of the StarPower process is to provide participants with an opportunity to generate a small social system, and then, having generated it, to explore and discover how a social system shapes human behavior and human decision-making. In the process of discovering some of the truths and half-truths of organizations and bureaucracies, class levels, wealth, power and poverty, participants also discover things about themselves and each other.

- **Timeline:** Can happen anytime of the year.
- **Contact Laura Libertore to schedule StarPower at your parish:**
Preferred way of contact: 937-254-5445. E-mail: csalibertore@yahoo.com. Two weeks notice recommended.
- **Cost:** \$10 per participant; Fee waived for those who find it prohibitive
- **Parish responsibilities:** Recruit participants, provide space, provide flip chart pad and stand.

Journey to Justice Retreat

This is a weekend retreat that is facilitated by the Social Action office for a group from a parish. It requires min. 15 participants, max 30 participants. Several parishes can do this together.

This retreat explores option for the poor and provides a hands-on immersion experience with a CCHD-funded group working to help people get out of poverty.

- **Timeline:** late June (date will be determined after talking with interested parishes)
- **Contact Catholic Social Action if you are interested:** 937-224-3026
- **Cost:** \$10 per participant. Fee waived for those who find it prohibitive

Liturgical Border Crossings

These will consist of groups of parishioners visiting other parishes of different economic, racial, or ethnic make-up. After liturgy dialogue will take place. The visits will be reciprocal.

- **Timeline:** anytime
- **Facilitator:** Pam Long
- **Cost:** none

Service/Outreach

This team will create service opportunities for parishioners that involve genuine interaction and dialogue with low-income people at places such as House of Bread, The Other Place, etc. Each experience will involve reflection and opportunities for on-going involvement.

- **Timeline:** On-going
- **To schedule an outreach or service opportunity contact Catholic Social Action at 937-224-3026**
- **Facilitators:** John Davalos, Cathy Herbenick, and Sr. Rose Morand, Nympha Clark
- **Cost:** none

Reflection and Social Analysis Resources and Opportunities



Reflection and Social Analysis: Asking Why?

Book Study Opportunities: Parishes are invited to form small group book studies using the recommended texts below. Small group study questions will be provided and the Social Action Office can order in all materials at a discounted price for purchase by parish groups or individuals. Call Social Action for more information: 937-224-3026.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Documents

“Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope”

Synopsis: In their pastoral statement, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*, the bishops of the United States and Mexico reflected together on the place of migration in the face of globalization. In this pastoral, the bishops present a vision of interdependent neighbors whose shared faith transcends borders and who are dedicated to building a more just and generous immigration system. Encouraged by the Holy Father’s call for a new evangelization and greater unity between Catholics in this hemisphere, *Strangers No Longer* examines ways to improve pastoral experiences for migrants and those who work with them. The statement also enumerates a number of public policy challenges and offers responses drawn from the bishops’ experiences.

“Brothers and Sisters to Us (1979)” and the “25th Anniversary statement of the U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral on Racism.”

Synopsis: What have we done within the last twenty five years to combat the evils of racism in our world and in our Church? Have new forms of racism sprung forward? Are there institutional and attitudinal changes which we can celebrate? What lies ahead?

“Economic Justice For All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy”

Synopsis: The pastoral letter is not a blueprint for the American economy. It does not embrace any particular theory of how the economy works, nor does it attempt to resolve disputes between different schools of economic thought. Instead, our letter turns to Scripture and to the social teaching of the Church. There, we discover what our economic life must serve, what standards it must meet. Let us examine some of these basic moral principles (12).

Books Recommended by the Catholic Social Justice Collaborative

Uprooting Racism: How Can White People Work for Racial Justice by Paul Kivel

Synopsis: *Uprooting Racism* explores the manifestations of racism in politics, work, community, and family life. It moves beyond the definition and unlearning of racism to address the many areas of privilege for white people and suggests ways for individuals and groups to challenge the structures of racism. *Uprooting Racism's* welcoming style helps readers look at how we learn racism, what effects it has on our lives, its costs and benefits to white people, and what we can do about it.

In addition to updating existing chapters, the new edition of *Uprooting Racism* explores how entrenched racism has been revealed in the new economy, the 2000 electoral debacle, rising anti-Arab prejudice, and health care policy. Special features include exercises, questions, and suggestions to engage, challenge assumptions, and motivate the reader towards social action. The new edition includes an index and an updated bibliography.

Dismantling Racism: The Continuing Challenge to White America,

by Joseph Barndt

Synopsis: In this book, the author addresses the “majority,” the white race in the United States. Racism permeates the individual attitudes and behavior of white people, but even more seriously, it permeates public systems, institutions, and culture. This book does not intend to attack or to produce guilt, but its message is tough and demanding. It begins by analyzing racism as it is today and the ways it has changed or not changed over the past few decades. Most important, the book focuses on the task of dismantling racism, how we can work to bring it to an end and build a racially just, multiracial, and multicultural society. Churches are not strangers to the task of combating racism, but so much of what we have done is too little, too late. We have yet to make a serious impact in the racism that surrounds us and is within us.

Books by our featured October speaker Alex Kotlowitz

There Are No Children Here

Synopsis: chronicles two years in the lives of two boys, Lafayette and Pharoah, struggling to survive in Chicago's Henry Horner Homes, a public housing complex disfigured by crime and neglect. The book which became a national bestseller was chosen by the New York Public Library as one of the 150 most important books of the century. In 1993, it was made into a television movie (for ABC), produced by and starring Oprah Winfrey.

The Other Side of the River

Synopsis: Separated by the St. Joseph River, St. Joseph and Benton Harbor are two Michigan towns that are geographically close, yet in every sense worlds apart. St. Joseph is a prosperous lakeshore community, 95 percent white, while Benton Harbor is impoverished and 92 percent black. When the body of Eric McGinnis, a black teenage boy from Benton Harbor, is found in the river, relations between the two communities grow increasingly strained as longheld misperceptions and attitudes surface. As family, friends, and the police struggle to find out how and why McGinnis died, Alex Kotlowitz uncovers layers of both evidence and opinion, and demonstrates that in many ways, the truth is shaped by which side of the river you call home.

Videos on Racism and Poverty

There are No Children Here: This book by Alex Kotlowitz was made into a TV movie and could be viewed with a group.

The Shadow of Hate: A History of Intolerance in America

Synopsis: This is the story of some Americans who were hated by others simply for who they were, what they looked like or what they believed. Their experiences remind us that our democracy is still a work in progress. This kit comes with a 40 minute video and a text with 15 detailed lesson plans that can be used as a series or separately. The text and lesson plans are suited for high school students. The video is suitable for adults. The Social Action office can loan this kit to parishes.

Additional Resources

From Catholic Charities USA: “Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good”

Synopsis: Unlike natural disasters such as hurricanes and floods, poverty in the United States is a human-made disaster. It is not a force of nature beyond our control, but rather it is the result of economic, social, and political choices that we Americans have made, both as individuals and as a society. This Catholic Charities USA policy paper looks at poverty as a moral issue, examines the real effect of poverty on the lives of people who live in poverty as well as the whole of society, and proposes specific policy proposals which provide a call to action.

(A 26 page book is available at no cost, as well as a CD with supplemental tools; ideas for parish gatherings, including prayer service outlines.)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development’s Poverty USA

Poverty USA: Visit www.usccb.org/cchd/povertyusa

On this site you will find information about poverty in the United States including:

- Stories of Hope
- Facts
- Interactive media
- Resources for Education

CCHD MISSION IN BRIEF...

Since its start thirty-seven years ago, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has worked to transform lives and communities, focusing steadily on breaking the cycle of poverty in thousands of communities across the United States. CCHD was established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with a two-fold mandate to fund low-income controlled empowerment projects and to educate Catholics about the root causes of poverty within the context of the Catholic social tradition. CCHD programs are funded through an annual collection in parishes each year.

Youth Ministry Social Justice Opportunities

Trainings on Social Justice Offered by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Contact Andrea Parker (223-1001)

Adult Trainings

The following workshop is offered every Jan/Feb in all three regions of the Archdiocese as part of the Basic Series Level II training. It is scheduled for the Dayton area on January 31, 2007:

1. **Live the Word—Engaging Youth in Service (2½ hrs.):** Today’s young people have been called the most service-oriented generation in decades. This workshop will cover all the basics of planning a service project—getting youth excited about service, how to choose an appropriate project, permission forms and other legal and liability issues, and debriefing the experience.
2. The following workshop is offered every other year in one central location. It is next scheduled to appear in Spring 2008. However, if someone asks for it and can provide us with an adequate number of registrants, we will schedule it sooner.

Celebrate Diversity: Building a Multicultural Youth Ministry (2½ hrs.): To be effective, youth ministry leaders need to understand the cultures already present in their parishes, how they interact with each other and what prayer styles speak to their hearts.

Youth Trainings

T.A.C.K.L.E. (Teens Advocating Change through Knowledge, Leadership & Experience) This is an annual weeklong (Sun. – Fri.) immersion program located in Cincinnati for high school age youth. The goals include:

- Exploring the root causes of poverty and injustice and how youth can make a difference.
- Developing the courage to act with justice, charity and solidarity with the wider community.
- Challenging youth and others to live simply, break down stereotypes, and be peace-makers.

Other justice- or service-oriented programs in the Dayton area

S.O.A.R (Step Out And Respond): a collaboration of several parishes: Ascension, St. Benedict the Moor and St. Charles. Contact Jim Murray at Ascension: 253-1997; Kelly Munsee at St. Charles: 434-4460; or Maxine Brooks at St. Benedict: 268-1106 .

Goals include:

- To empower youth to see service as a vital part of their Christian lifestyle
- To broaden youth awareness and understanding of Catholic social justice teachings
- To provide youth an opportunity to see the issues and needs within the local community
- To offer youth a forum where they can share their gifts in response to these issues and needs
- To provide an environment where youth can connect with other young Catholics

S.O.S (Summer of Service): Another collaboration between parishes in the Dayton area. Contact Elise Wahle at St. Christopher: 898-2155 x 105.

J-Walking: the youth component to Just Faith is happening with a group at St. Luke's, Beavercreek. Contact St. Luke's at 426-5656.

Gospel Road: Youth from St. Luke, St. Rita, and Precious Blood participate in a summer work camp in Harlan, KY for homebuilding and rehabbing. Contact Jeff Davis at 426-5656.

UCan't DoIt Chapter: a group of youth at St. Luke are raising awareness of the genocide in Darfur. Their goals: raise \$2000 for relief, get 2000 prayer volunteers, have 2000 people contact world leaders. Contact Jeff Davis at 426-5656.

Call to Witness: trip to Rwanda in 2003 sponsored by Catholic Relief Services. Jeff Davis 426-5656) is willing to speak to groups about his experiences.

Many area youth ministries annually sponsor:

- a **"Souper Bowl of Caring."** (www.souperbowl.org or the Center for Ministry Development's <http://secure.cmdnet.org/souperbowl/index.cfm>)
- the **Catholic Relief Services Food Fast** (www.foodfast.org)

National Programs:

- Several parishes in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati participate in **Young Neighbors in Action**, a week-long service learning program of the Center for Ministry Development, www.cmdnet.org. Groups travel to a pre-determined city to learn and serve. This program incorporates a healthy balance of Catholic Social Teaching and service opportunities. Elizabeth Montgomery (St. John Neumann, (513) 742-0953) formerly of St. Francis of Assisi, is a project leader for this program.
- One parish in Dayton participates in **Catholic Heart Workcamp**, another week-long service opportunity for youth. For the past 2-3 years, Catholic Heart has chosen Dayton as one of its sites. This is primarily a hands-on program with little education on Catholic Social Teaching. www.heartworkcamp.com.

Weavers Of Justice

Social Justice Reflection

Reading:

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25, Ch 34 - 40

Prayer:

May God bless us with discomfort
at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships,
so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger
at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
so that we may work for economic justice for all people.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer
from pain, hunger, homelessness, and rejection,
so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them and to
turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness
to believe that we can make a difference in this world
so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Reflection:

As I use these gifts God has given me to help my fellow human beings, let me remember those times when I was hungry, sad or lonely. Let me remember those times I was cold or thirsty, then let me *reflect* on those times in the past when I **ALMOST** helped someone but didn't.

Action:

How is this work of my hands today helping to shape my spiritual journey and what am I learning from this?

You are invited to submit your goals related to the Weavers of Justice to the Catholic Social Action Office so that we can support, applaud, network and encourage your efforts for this year!

Weavers of Justice Parish Goals for 2007

Parish: _____

Social Justice Contact Person(s) _____

Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

Our parish plans on doing the following on the issues of poverty and racism

Step 1: Experiential Learning Opportunities:

For each opportunity that you have selected, please describe when you will do it and if you are open to having other parishes join in with your efforts. Please also describe anything unique about the process you are using or how you plan to involve others at your parish.

- Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations

- StarPower

- Journey to Justice Retreat (will occur in June or July after consultation with interested parishes)

- Immigration Event, March 10

- Liturgical Border Crossings

- Service/Outreach

Step 2: Reflection and Social Analysis Activities:

For each opportunity that you have selected, please describe when you will do it and if you are open to having other parishes join in with your efforts. Please also describe anything unique about the process you are using or how you plan to involve others at your parish.

Book / Document Studies

- *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*
- “*Brothers and Sisters to Us (1979)*” and the “25th Anniversary statement of the U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral on Racism.
- “*Economic Justice For All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy*”
- *Uprooting Racism: How Can White People Work for Racial Justice* by Paul Kivel
- *Dismantling Racism: The Continuing Challenge to White America*, by Joseph Barndt
- Other _____

Books by Alex Kotlowitz (the speaker for the fall 2007 Distinguished Speaker Series)

- *There Are No Children Here*
- *Chicago: Never a City so Real*
- *The Other Side of the River*
- Other _____

Videos for group showings and discussion

- *There Are No Children Here*
- *The Shadow of Hate: A History of Intolerance in America*
- Other _____

Comments:

Specific Poverty Studies (please describe how you intend to utilize these resources (if at all)).

- *Catholic Charities USA Poverty Packet*

- *Catholic Campaign for Human Development's Poverty USA resources*

Educational / Awareness Raising Efforts

Please describe any efforts you will make at general education on the issue of poverty and racism (i.e. petitions at Mass, bulletin inserts or reflections, special prayer services, displays, etc.)

Mail or E-mail to:

Catholic Social Action
266 Bainbridge Street
Dayton, OH 45402

E-mail: csadayton@catholiccincinnati.org

Parish Resource for Poverty/Racism Awareness

Catholic Social Action will send your parish monthly poverty and racism resources. Attached are bulletin inserts, sample intercessions, prayers, and poverty education resources to get you started for the first month.

Bulletin inserts- USA Poverty and Racism Facts

On average, more than one out of every three Americans - 37 percent of all people in the United States - are officially classified as living in poverty at least 2 months out of the year. (U.S. Census Bureau, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2004*)

The National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) reports that 64% of Americans believe racism is a problem in health care - 20% say it's a major problem.

Since 1999, the number of poor Americans suffering from "food insecurity" and hunger has increased by 3.9 million - 2.8 million adults and more than one million children. In 2002, 34.9 million people lived in households experiencing food insecurity - that is, not enough food for basic nourishment - compared to 33.6 million in 2001 and 31 million in 1999. (U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Household Food Security in the United States, 2002*, October 2003.)

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), studies in several states show that African Americans and Hispanics were being stopped for routine traffic violations in excess of their representation in the population. (ACLU Letter to the Senate 2/19/04.)

Children in America have higher poverty rates than adults, and people 65 and over have higher chronic poverty rates and lower exit rates than children or adults. (U.S. Census Bureau, *Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty 1996-1999*, July 2003.)

The rate and number of children in America living in poverty remained the same in 2004 at 17.8 percent and 13 million children. What's more, children represented 35.2 percent of all the people in poverty - compared with 25.2 percent of the total population.

More than one in four Hispanic youth drop out of school, and nearly half leave school by the eighth grade. (Focus Adolescent Services)

Sample Intercessions

For all who labor against poverty in the United States and throughout the world, for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and for our parish community, that we may follow Christ's example of love and solidarity with the poor, let us pray to the Lord. **R./**

That the work of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and of all who hunger and thirst for justice, will repair the breach between persons who are poor and those who are economically advantaged in ways that are pleasing and give glory to God, let us pray to the Lord. **R./**

For our parish, that we gain wisdom and courage to advocate for just laws, policies and practices in our country, and to act in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need, let us pray to the Lord. **R./**

For our brothers and sisters who experience the impact of poverty every day in this country and throughout the world that we may work together to create thriving and compassionate communities, let us pray to the Lord. **R./**

Prayer to End Poverty

Lord God, our Provider.

We pray for those in our world who are suffering from extreme poverty.

For the billion people who have never learned to write,

For the hundreds of millions who are malnourished,

For the tens of thousands of tiny children who die every day.

Take us beyond statistics and the guilt they can create.

Save us from compassion fatigue, that we might not become weary in doing good.

Show us your face in the mother desperate to feed her children,

in the flea ridden child with the bloated stomach,

in the old man whose life has been spent working for next to nothing.

Show us how to honor you with our resources,

With time and money, energy and education.

May all that we have and all that we are become an act of worship to you that would bring,

Discomfort to the selfish,

Challenge to the political structures,

Encouragement to those who work for justice,

A voice for those who are unheard,

Hope to the oppressed,

Good news to the poor.

Poverty Awareness Education

The CCHD website has many comprehensive resources outlining different educational approaches to poverty highlighting different age groups. Here just a few are listed. Visit <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/education.shtml> to find out more.

Poverty USA is an interactive video which gets to the heart of what it is like to be poor in America, outlining those resources a family does not have available. <http://www.nccbuscc.org/cchd/povertyusa/>

Poverty USA Student Action Project

The *Poverty USA Student Action Project* extends CCHD's mission to our school children, helping to raise our youth's awareness of poverty in America and to promote a continuing commitment to social justice. This toolkit is designed to help Catholic elementary school principals and teachers as well as religious education directors engage their campuses and/or parishes in a poverty awareness campaign utilizing resources developed by CCHD. <http://usccb.org/cchd/SAPv4.pdf>

A Catholic Call to Justice

An Activity Book for Raising Awareness of Social Justice Issues
Recommended for ages 14-22
<http://usccb.org/cchd/5-239.pdf>

Ending Poverty in Community (EPIC)

an interactive, interdisciplinary curriculum for youth ministry programs and high school classrooms. The lessons will introduce participants to the epidemic of poverty in the United States and to the steps they can take to work with the poor in eliminating the root causes of poverty today. The curriculum comprises six lessons with classroom-ready handouts, warm-up exercises and reflection activities that reinforce student learning and inspire a faith response. <http://usccb.org/cchd/epic/www/index.html>

JustFaith

JustFaith Ministries develops and offers workshops and programs that empower people and expand commitment to social ministry within faith communities. Through these opportunities members of a parish or congregation study the Church's commitment to the poor and vulnerable in a lively, challenging, multifaceted process, all experienced in the context of a small community of faith. Contact Catholic Social Action to form a JustFaith community in your parish. <http://www.justfaith.org>