



Diocese of Buffalo

Department of Lifelong Faith Formation

A member of the Division for Evangelization and Catechesis

The Department of Lifelong Faith Formation seeks to provide helpful resources on a variety of topics connected to the Diocese of Buffalo's *Forming Disciples* and *Curriculum Guidelines for Adolescent Catechesis* curricula. The following includes a diverse collection of online resources that can be used to enhance service experiences that are coordinated as part of a parish's faith formation program.

These resources highlight the preexisting connections between service-immersion and the diocesan curricula, and will be useful when preparing for service experiences and engaging participants in theological reflection after the fact. However, to be utilized most effectively, these resources are to be used in conjunction with discussions that deepen the messages and calls to Christian living, missionary vocation, morality, and Catholic Social Teaching.

Suggested Learning Objectives:

- To strengthen the connection between acts of service to the Catholic faith through the inclusion of theological reflection before and after a service experience, regardless of one's age.
- To foster a greater awareness and understanding of the social justice issues that lie at the root of service opportunities.
- To understand that acts of service and movements toward justice stem from one's baptismal call.

Forming Disciples Curriculum Connections:

- The resources shared in this guide primarily address curricula points from the following standards:
 - Standard 6: Christian Living
 - Standard 12: Catholic Social Teaching
 - Standard 14: Missionary Vocation

Curriculum Guidelines for Adolescent Catechesis Curriculum Connections:

- The resources shared in this guide primarily address curricula points from the following standards:
 - Core Topic V: Morality
 - Elective Topic IX: Catholic Social Teaching

**For more information, resources, or questions, contact:
Kaitlin Garrity at kgarrity@buffalodiocese.org or call (716) 847-5521**

Service agencies and opportunities

The following are two search tools that can assist in finding and contacting service organizations in the eight counties of Western New York.

- **Catholic Charities' Social Service Map**, https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1dkQ_uo5SBVHVapakURx_b6-RNQc&ll=42.73911496072926%2C-78.97551112890625&z=8
- **Volunteer WNY**, <http://www.volunteerwny.org/need/>

For the minister

- **Post-service Experience Reflection Packet** – The following is a document with several models of a post-service, guided theological reflection that can be used across age groups.
 - **Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis's "Reflection/Action Process: Examining Social Issues with a Theological Prospective"**, <https://www.cctwincities.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/CST-Reflection-Action-Process-Booklet.pdf>
- **Resource Pages** – The following websites have a variety of articles, videos, and activities that can inform your personal understanding of Catholic Social Teaching, service, and justice, as well as provide materials for your ministry.
 - **Catholic Relief Service**, <https://www.crs.org/get-involved/resource-center>
 - **Poverty USA**, <http://www.povertyusa.org/learn>
 - **Catholic Social Teaching**, <http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/resources/>
 - **We Are Salt and Light's Liturgy and Social Justice Connections**, <https://www.wearesaltandlight.org/pray-together/linking-liturgy-and-justice/>
- **Loyola Press's "Our Service For and With the Poor"** – A short article reflecting on the reality of charity and the purpose of informed service; the article raises some important questions for contemplation.
 - <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/scripture-and-tradition/catholic-social-teaching/our-service-for-and-with-the-poor>

For and with Children

- **Soul Pancake's "How to Change the World (a work in progress) | Kid President"** – A video that discusses how people try to change the world and explains that, contrary to popular belief, progress is easily achievable.
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=117&v=4z7gDsSKUmU

- **CAFOD’s “Catholic Social Teaching for secondary school RE | CAFOD”** – A video that explains the social justices issues that affect different communities across the globe, told from the perspective of young people who face these injustices on a daily basis.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeQm9owQ8L0>

- **USCCB’s Two Feet of Justice Lesson Plans** – A lesson plan from USCCB that discusses the interplay between charity and justice, imparting how both are important to be attentive to and address in our communities.
 - <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/two-feet-of-love-in-action.cfm>

- **Catholic Relief Service’s “The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching for Children”** – A handout that explains Catholic Social Teaching in accessible and understandable language for young children.
 - [CRS’s Catholic Social Teaching for Children PDF](#)

- **Catholic Campaign for Human Development’s “Superhero of Justice”** – An interactive activity about applying the principles of social justice and helping our neighbors in need.
 - <http://www.cchdbaltimore.org/superhero-of-justice.pdf>

- **Vibrant Faith at Home Activities:**
 - **Their Daily Bread** – The United States is a wealthy nation, and yet 49 million Americans, including 16 million children, struggle to get enough to eat. In this activity, reflect on Jesus' command to feed others, learn more about hunger, and commit to living in solidarity with those who are hungry.
 - <http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org/item/their-daily-bread>

 - **Trash Talk** – A week at camp provides many new experiences for all campers*, especially when it comes to time spent in nature. Since as Christians, we are called to care for creation, your camper will return home with new ideas and information to share about caring for the earth. (**This activity uses “camper” language, but can be adapted to any setting.*)
 - <http://vibrantfaithathome.org/item/trash-talk>

 - **Toy Swap** – This activity will encourage children to "think outside themselves" and instill the virtue of generosity by donating not only their own toys—but also collecting toys from family, friends and neighbors—to be donated to children who are less fortunate.
 - <http://vibrantfaithathome.org/item/toy-swap>

For and with Adolescents

- **TED's "Why the only future worth building includes everyone | Pope Francis"** – A talk by Pope Francis on inclusion, equality, solidarity, and tenderness.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36zrJfAFcuc>

- **TEDx Talks' "Compassion and Kinship: Fr. Gregory Boyle at TEDxConejo 2012"** – A talk by Fr. Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, on the value and importance of compassion and kinship in our communities.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipR0kWt1Fkc>

- **Trocaire's "Catholic Social Teaching in 3 Minutes"** – A short video explaining the tenants of Catholic Social Teaching.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELyLdMIFdzA>

- **Catholic Relief Service's "CST 101 | Catholic Social Teaching" Playlist** – A series of seven videos that explore and explain each tenant of Catholic Social Teaching.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABRI2ZSs58E&list=PLt5PsPjJAK-0b9BYRHUAXnlKMIv7qyZca>

- **AwakenWithJP's "Being a Social Justice Warrior – Ultra Spiritual Life episode 88"** – A satirical video that highlights the ways one should NOT address social injustices. This is an entry point for a discussion on how social justice should be addressed when we encounter it.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBdnyrzq96s>

- **AJ+'s "Why H&M Costs More Than You Think"** – A video that raises an awareness for the purchases consumers make and the effects it has beyond one's bank account.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOW5jpXnktY>

- **Clinton Sharp's "The Body of Christ"** – A video that illustrates how all of God's people have a variety of gifts and talents that are all needed to solve the social injustices that exist in our world; uses 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27 as inspiration.
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=175&v=uvu4_5DeNnA

- **USCCB's Two Feet of Justice Lesson Plans** – A USCCB lesson plan that discusses the interplay between charity and justice, imparting how both are important to be attentive to and address in our communities.
 - <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/two-feet-of-love-in-action.cfm>

- **Ave Maria Press's "Catholic Social Teaching and Monopoly"** – A modified version of the board game, Monopoly, that raises an awareness of economic inequality and leads well into a conversation about the Preferential Option for the Poor.
 - <https://www.avemariapress.com/engagingfaith/2009/01/catholic-social-teaching-and-monopoly/>

- **Beth Anne's Best's Catholic Social Teaching Tree** – An activity that outlines the connection between Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, and the social justice issues that are present in our communities, country, and world.
 - <http://bethannesbest.com/five-minute-friday-tree/>

For and with the Family

- **Slavery Footprint** – The unfortunate reality of our world is that millions of people are victims of or touched by slavery and human trafficking. The following is an activity that can raise your family's awareness of this issue. By selecting the products and items you own and regularly use, you will see how you unintentionally contribute to this pervasive and global dilemma, and begin a dialogue of how you can be more intentional about your lifestyle choices.
 - <http://slaveryfootprint.org/>
- **Loyola Press's "Showing Our Love for All"** – A selection of Scriptural and Church document excerpts followed by activity suggestions and guided discussion on helping our brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/scripture-and-tradition/catholic-social-teaching/showing-our-love-for-all-option-for-the-poor>
- **Ave Maria Press's "Catholic Social Teaching and Monopoly"** – A modified version of the board game, Monopoly, that raises an awareness of economic inequality and leads well into a conversation about the Preferential Option for the Poor.
 - <https://www.avemariapress.com/engagingfaith/2009/01/catholic-social-teaching-and-monopoly/>
- **Vibrant Faith at Home Activities:**
 - **Give and Grow** – A sure way to grow in faith is to serve others! This activity is a great way to spend time as a family while making springtime gifts for elderly in your community.
 - <http://vibrantfaithathome.org/item/give-and-grow>
 - **Jump Start Lent** – Jump-start your family's Lenten observance with a lesson in generosity (almsgiving). Pick any week or two during Lent and collect coins. Purchase a gas card with what you gather, and donate it to someone in need.
 - <http://vibrantfaithathome.org/item/jump-start-lent>
 - **Family Shield** – At Easter we renew our Baptism, our identity as children of God. And with that identity, Christ calls us into action. In this activity you will create a "family shield" which celebrates your identity as a family, and discuss how you are called to serve.
 - <http://vibrantfaithathome.org/item/family-shield>

- **Charting Family Service** – Rename your family chore chart as family service. We serve our family to show our love and thanks to God.
 - <http://vibrantfaithathome.org/item/charting-family-service>
- **The Shape of Service** – Learning how to serve others begins by serving in the family. Families and meals come in many shapes. This activity will explore how we serve one another through the basic skill of setting the table. Through service we show we care for our family.
 - <http://vibrantfaithathome.org/item/the-shape-of-service>
- **No Longer Strangers** – Inspired by Dorothy Day's vision of community, plan a feast and invite those living in the margins of your lives.
 - <http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org/item/no-longer-strangers>
- **We Hold These Truths** – Declaration of Independence is a statement of human rights. People may look back on this document for its historical importance and poetic language, but the words are still important. Take some time to review these words and consider how your family might continue the human rights work that the signers of the Declaration of Independence began.
 - <http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org/item/we-hold-these-truths>
- **Evaluating Your Service** – Every time your family does something to serve or help others, take time afterward to reflect on the experience. Encourage family members to share their thoughts and feelings with each other.
 - <http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org/item/evaluating-your-service>