



# Global Solidarity Grant Information

## What is the Global Solidarity Grant?

In an effort to support Catholic Relief Services' advocacy work and expand parishioners' understanding of global solidarity, **the Office of Missions and the Office of Social Concerns are reimagining the CRS Rice Bowl parish grant program.** Catholic Relief Services believes that the 25% of CRS Rice Bowl contributions remaining in the Archdiocese illustrates the importance of our global responsibility as Christians to assist those in need in the United States and other countries. The 25% enables participants to understand the plight of those most in need around the world, its relationship to poverty in their own communities, and ways to respond.

This year, parishes are encouraged to apply to the Global Solidarity Grant to participate in a new initiative. **We are seeking several parishes which are looking to grow their understanding of poverty, global solidarity, and social action through a Catholic lens.** The chosen parishes will create and facilitate small group experiences using the JustFaith Catholic series formational modules. The grant money will cover the cost of group registration fees.



## What is the JustFaith Catholic Series?

The JustFaith Catholic series guides small groups in exploring the Gospel's call to respond to poverty in their local communities and in our world, building solidarity with the poor and marginalized. Reading, discussion, and reflection on the themes of Catholic social teaching are complemented by rich prayers, heartfelt sharing, videos, guest speakers, retreats, and immersion experiences into the local community – all of which build strong relationships among group members. It also equips them with the tools they need to take action in a way that is effective, sustainable, and in accordance with Catholic social teaching.

The JustFaith Catholic series is divided into four programs:

1. Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response
2. Faith and Poverty: A Solidarity Response
3. Faith and Poverty: A Justice Response
4. Faith and Poverty: A Global Response

## How can parishes participate?

Parishes can participate in the Global Solidarity Grant in two manners:

**Option One:** Parishes can choose to use *Faith and Poverty: A Global Response*, developed in partnership with Catholic Relief Services, which invites participants to a new understanding of the dynamics, structures, causes, and consequences of global poverty. By encouraging new spiritual practices and informed action, *Faith and Poverty: A Global Response* aims to cultivate a groundswell of action and advocacy in solidarity with those whose lives are affected by severe poverty across the globe.

This program was designed to serve as either the final program in the four-part series or as a standalone program. By choosing option one, the registration fee for the *Faith and Poverty: A Global Response* will be covered by the grant.

**Option Two:** Parishes can choose to engage in the first program in the JustFaith Catholic series, *Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response* which lays the theological and biblical foundation for responding to poverty in their communities. Participants will explore the Gospel's call to respond to poverty in their communities, nation, and world, and will equip participants with practical tools to take action in effective and sustainable ways.

By choosing option two, the registration fee for *Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response* will be covered by the grant. Parishes can choose to continue the series after completing the *Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response* program.





### What are the details?

- *Faith and Poverty: A Global Response* was developed in partnership with Catholic Relief Services.
- Recommended group size: 7-14.
- Each program consists of eight 2-hour sessions, a one-day retreat and an immersion experience.
- Each session includes:
  - Prayer, reflection, integration of faith, and spiritual practices
  - Discussion of reading
  - Videos and group activities
- Parishes will need to identify two volunteer co-facilitators. JustFaith Ministries provides strong facilitation materials and support to assist parishioners or parish staff who take on these roles.
- Two books and a spiritual practice resource are available for purchase for \$25. Participants are responsible for purchasing these books.
- The grant money covers the group sign-up fee for either *Faith and Poverty: A Global Response* **or** *Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response*.

### Why should a parish participate?

The Office of Missions wants to support parish groups looking to address global solidarity and poverty from a Biblical perspective and challenge parishioners to engage their parish communities to practice solidarity with communities affected by poverty.

The goals of the program are:

- To **provide** participants with the Scriptural and Catholic social teaching framework for addressing local and global poverty in a way that honors God, ourselves, and those we seek to serve.
- To **learn** about the experiences of people in poverty and to have a better understanding of dynamics that make it difficult to move out of poverty.
- To **develop** a biblical understanding of the word “justice” and what this word means for our lives and our communities.
- To **discern** personal and social actions to address poverty and to work for systemic change in our local community.
- To **study** the teachings of spiritual leaders.
- To **inspire** local Catholics in our Archdiocese to take an active role in solidarity-focused action that is rooted in the recognition of the inherent dignity of all human persons.

## Who is eligible to apply for the grant?

This grant is open to any parish in the Archdiocese which wants to:

- Explore their call to love God and love their neighbors.
- Foster community in their parish.
- Learn the Scriptural and Catholic social teaching framework for addressing poverty.
- Discern personal and social action to address poverty in their local community.
- Motivate solidarity-focused action that is rooted in the recognition of the inherent dignity of all humans.

## When is the application available?

The application will be made available in September 2023; all applications must be received by November 17, 2023. Any parish having difficulty meeting this deadline must contact [GallagherMC@adw.org](mailto:GallagherMC@adw.org) before the application deadline. A committee will make grant decisions and applicants will be notified of a decision by the beginning of January 2024. Grants will be disbursed in January 2024.

## How does a parish apply?

Each applicant should **appoint a coordinator** for the grant application. This person should ensure that all the pieces of the application are properly completed and submitted in a timely fashion. Occasionally, Office of Missions staff will request further information regarding an application. It is important that the coordinator responds in a timely manner to such requests. Incomplete applications cannot be considered for approval. The minimum grant size is for seven participants. The maximum grant size is fourteen participants. In the event of a parish with much interest in the program, multiple small groups can be formed and noted on the application. The sign-up fee for small groups is \$35/person. All applications must be signed by the grant coordinator and endorsed by the applicant's pastor.

