



The Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of Washington

# Salt and Light Grant Information

**“Every believer is called to serve those in need, to work for justice, and to pursue peace. Every parish has the mission to help its members act on their faith in the world.”**

*(Communities of Salt and Light, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)*

## **What Is The Salt And Light Grant?**

As Christians we are called to be salt and light to the world – to live as a faith-filled and life-giving presence in our families, our communities, our country, and globally. For each of us, that means learning more about how our faith calls us to follow Christ in responding to the needs of our neighbors and to the challenges of our times.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington is offering Salt and Light Grants (formerly Global Solidarity Grants) to assist our Catholic social teaching formation. Learn more about the opportunity for small group learning and faith-sharing experiences focusing on Catholic social teaching by participating in the JustFaith Catholic series. The participants 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.

## How Can Parishes Participate?

The JustFaith Catholic series was developed in collaboration with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and gives participants an opportunity to reflect on issues of poverty, global solidarity, and social action through a Catholic lens.

Participants can 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.

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.

If your parish's small group joined in last year's Global Solidarity Grant and would like support continuing to participate in a JustFaith program, please contact Ian Mitchell in the Office of Social Concerns ([Mitchelli@adw.org](mailto:Mitchelli@adw.org)) or Maeve Gilhenehy-Gallagher in the Office of Missions ([GallagherMC@adw.org](mailto:GallagherMC@adw.org)) directly.





### What Are The Details?

- Each JustFaith 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
- Recommended group size: 7-14.
- 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 *Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response*.

### Why Should A Parish Participate?

The Office of Missions and the Office of Social Concerns want 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 or college campus ministry group in the Archdiocese which wants to learn more about how our faith calls us to follow Christ in responding to the needs of our neighbors and to the challenges of our times by participating in small group learning and faith-sharing experiences focused on Catholic social teaching.

## When Is The Application Available?

The application will be made available in February 2025; all applications must be received by Monday, February 24. Any applicant 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 March 2025. Grants will be disbursed in March 2025. Any parish having difficulty meeting this deadline must contact [GallagherMC@adw.org](mailto:GallagherMC@adw.org)

## 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, archdiocesan 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.

For further information or questions, contact Ian Mitchell in the Office of Social Concerns ([Mitchelli@adw.org](mailto:Mitchelli@adw.org)) or Maeve Gilheney-Gallagher in the Office of Missions ([GallagherMC@adw.org](mailto:GallagherMC@adw.org)).

