

Creating space for exploring social justice issues as a parish community:

Template for Year of Discernment Events

Liturgy: grounding in prayer/worship	Formation: education on the particular issue being highlighted	Going deeper: offering further opportunities for Action/Reflection
<p>Potential liturgical frameworks: Mass, Taize, Centering Prayer, Stations of the Cross, Lectio divina, Liturgy of the Hours, etc.</p> <p>Important aspects to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts/Environment/Music – What symbols, images, lyrics, and tone will help open our “prophetic imagination” on the issue? • Readings – what Scripture passages highlight God’s concern for this particular justice issue? • Prayer – how can we articulate the concern and hope of the People of God regarding this issue? (Petitions, litany, silence, ritual, etc.) • Presiding – if not a mass, who will lead the prayer? • Preaching – if a mass, collaborating with presider; if not a mass, will lay preaching be incorporated? 	<p>Potential formats: speaker, film, presentation, panel, small group discussions, etc.</p> <p>Introductory social analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does this issue look like in our local community? • What are the root causes of this particular issue? (i.e. economic, political, and cultural systems that foster the injustice) <p>Theological Connections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has this issue been explored in the Catholic social tradition? (quotes/excerpts from CST documents, Scripture, Pope Francis, USCCB, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, holy women & men) <p>Participant Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will participants ask questions? • Will there be an opportunity for participants to name their experience of this issue or concern? 	<p>Potential ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there parishioners already volunteering in this area that could connect us to a particular organization/opportunity? • What upcoming events in Archdiocese/Portland area could parishioners attend to learn more or engage in immersion/advocacy? • Are there opportunities for parishioners to influence legislation or local leaders (letter writing, attending a city council meeting etc.)? • Is there a local community organization that is on the forefront of addressing this issue? • Are there books, articles, or other resources for parishioners to consider if they would like to learn more? <p>Question for consideration: What information will be helpful to gather as we offer the events themselves? How will we gauge the parish’s interest around the issues we highlight? (i.e. attendance at the sessions, survey at each event or final event, etc.)</p>