

A Quick Look at...

SOCIAL MINISTRY WITH YOUTH

Diocesan Youth Minister Meet-Up Notes from July 7, 2020

Key Points from Presentation with Rachael Laustrup:

- Start with the basics of Catholic Social Teaching (CST).
- It's important to teach teens to match their passion with purpose. If teens have a certain passion, integrate that with needs in their community.
- Some must have's when thinking about justice and outreach are:
 - **Encounter** – Find a way to have teens encounter and connect with others and let them know someone is praying for them.
 - **Education** – If there is an outreach project, there needs to be an opportunity for teens to ask “why.”
 - **Reflection** – We don't always learn from the experience; we learn from reflecting on the experience. Leave that space for reflection.
- Some specific ideas:
 - Commonwealth Catholic Charities does a **refugee resettlement program**. Take time to teach youth about refugees, how they are different from immigrants, migrants, and people seeking asylum.
 - **Death Penalty**. Do a virtual or social distance prayer vigil for those on death row or have died from death penalty. Then, later, take that opportunity to talk to your teens about dignity of all lives.
 - **Letter writing**. You can find a local juvenile detention center, jail, or prison that you can write to anonymously.
 - Find **local and parish social ministry leaders** to help you out!

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Organizations & Websites

- <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/index.cfm>
- <https://www.crs.org/resource-center/CST-101?tab=life-and-dignity-of-the-human-person>
- <https://catholicismobilizing.org/>
- <https://ignatiansolidarity.net/>
- <https://vaipl.org/>
- <http://www.campaignforyouthjustice.org/>
- <https://ejj.org/>
- <https://www.avemariapress.com/aveexplores-faith-action/>

Books

- *Saints and Social Justice: A Guide to Changing the World*, by Brandon Vogt
- *Loving Jesus*, by Mother Theresa
- *Mercy in the City*, by Kerry Weber
- Books by Shane Claiborne

- Q&A about Social Ministry -

1. **How can teens be involved with helping with Haiti?** *Letter writing, pen pal ministry. Anything to help boost the economy and create jobs for the locals. A Haiti fundraiser is a great way to get teens involved. Talk to your parish and see what they think would be most effective. You can do classroom to classroom pen pals partnership which keeps it's at a group level rather than individuals and no one feels left out. Decorate bookmarks, try to keep the relationship going. Try to sponsor a teacher, helps keep kids educated.*
2. **Are there any resources you've used or projects you've done with you teens that got them to engage in CST? How did you get them to ask the question of "why"?** *The makers of Youcat have a CST catechism called Docat which is all about CST principles and breaks them down with tons of examples. It has a corresponding app that has games and quizzes. As a high level introduction, it's great - something to open the door and getting them to think about a single issue they might really want to dive deeper into. Also, going out and **doing** something and then learning more about the root issue afterwards helps put context to the conversation!*



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