

IMPACT REPORT
JANUARY 2023



CHRIST-CENTERED LIVING

GRANT ID
2021-CCL-015

GRANT AWARD
\$70,000

GRANT TIMELINE
JUNE 2021 – MAY 2023

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC PARISH

Justice Ministry

Prepared for
WELBORN BAPTIST FOUNDATION





GRANTEE
PARTNER

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC PARISH

CCL PATH
TO IMPACT

Christ-Centered
Nonprofit Impact

Christ-Centered
Collaborative Efforts

Mobilized, Activated,
& Equipped Churches

PROJECT

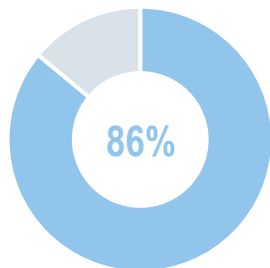
Justice Ministry

All Saints Catholic Parish (All Saints) has been working diligently to raise awareness for and engage parish and community members in justice initiatives:

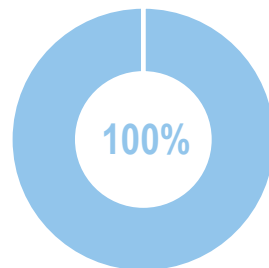
- ◆ Justice resources created: Justice Brochure, Prayer Cards
- ◆ Justice-focused leadership are in place: Justice Ministry Coordinator, Justice Ministry Committee
- ◆ Justice-oriented studies facilitated: *On Earth as It is in Heaven* book study, *Let Us Dream* discussion series (**16 parishioners**)
- ◆ Justice events attended: Pilgrimage to St Louis (**27 individuals**), Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment (CAJE) events (**159 total individuals in 2022**), Exploring White Nationalism training (**2 individuals**), and JustFaith Facilitator Training for the Want to Talk? Series (**1 individual**)

PROJECT
HIGHLIGHTS

Evansville residents have grown in their understanding of justice-related issues as a result of their experiences with All Saints.

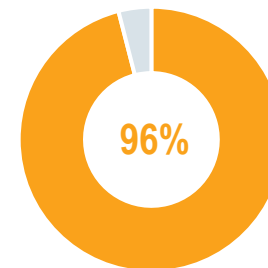


Of individuals who participated in the *Let Us Dream* book discussion increased their understanding of justice issues

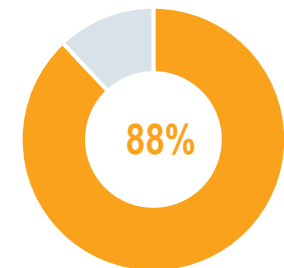


Of pilgrims to St. Louis increased their understanding of or maintained a very good/excellent understanding of justice issues

Individuals who made the pilgrimage to St. Louis plan to apply what they have learned to their lives.



Of pilgrims plan to use their experience to pray about justice issues



Of pilgrims plan to use their experience to engage in discussions with others about justice issues

“Let Us Dream is an excellent book for group discussion, sharing of selections that spoke to us was a good way to allow the group to hit on multiple topics.” –Participant

“Every activity had something special happen emotionally.” –Participant

“It was a wonderful day of fellowship.” –Participant



ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC PARISH

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- 27** Individuals traveled to St. Louis for an all-day justice pilgrimage (partnership between All Saints and Mt. Olive Galilee Baptist Church)
- 16** Parishioners attended the Let Us Dream discussion series hosted by All Saints

88 All Saints members attended CAJE events in 2021

106 All Saints members attended CAJE events in 2022

PROJECT OUTCOMES

100% Of individuals who took the pilgrimage to St. Louis were interested in attending a longer pilgrimage in the future (25 pilgrims completed the post-pilgrimage evaluation form)

17% Increase in All Saints members who attended all three CAJE events (Rally, Action, and Celebration) from 2021 to 2022 (surpasses the goal of 10% increase)

Additional Outcomes highlighted on page 1.

MOBILIZED, ACTIVATED, & EQUIPPED CHURCHES

All Saints is helping advance the Welborn Baptist Foundation’s (Welborn’s) CCL priority area of Mobilized, Activated, & Equipped Churches by:

- ◆ Putting their faith into action and helping their parishioners and members of the community better understand issues related to justice.

IMPACT STORIES

After making the pilgrimage to St. Louis, several attendees voluntarily wrote letters to the editor of four prominent newspapers (*The Courier and Press*, *Our Times*, *The Message*, and the *St. Louis Review*) to share about their personal experiences. These letters were published in the November 17, 2022 edition of *Our Times* and the November 18, 2022 edition of *The Message*.



Submitted photo

Pilgrimage to St. Louis

Recently, this group comprising members of All Saints Parish and Mt. Olive Galilee Baptist Church in Evansville made a pilgrimage to St. Louis to visit St. Alphonsus Ligouri Church, also known as The Rock. The group was fascinated by the history and architecture of the impressive structure and its evolution into a lively African American Catholic parish. The group also visited the Old Federal Courthouse at Gateway Arches National Park, and the newly dedicated Freedom’s Home statue, which memorializes slaves who sought redress before the civil war. They concluded the pilgrimage with meditation and prayer time at Kiener Plaza Park.



Local group takes pilgrimage to St. Louis

By Steedra Meyer
On September 11th a group from All Saints Catholic Parish and Mt. Olive Galilee Baptist Church journeyed to St. Louis to visit historical landmarks to deepen their understanding of how people of different faiths share common beliefs to seek and work for justice. Oftentimes we hear negative news stories about St. Louis – violence with police, race relations, flooding, and shootings, but a bus full of visitors from Evansville has good news to report.
The group visited “The Rock”, St. Alphonsus Ligouri church in St. Louis. The history and architecture of this impressive structure and its evolution into a lively, authentically black and truly Catholic Parish, “fascinated everyone. Witnessed by parishioners and staff, they covered their level of the church and city. We were impressed by their enthusiasm, hospitality, and their reverent and expressive liturgical celebration. We paid respects to people who sought justice and civil rights at the Old Federal Courthouse where critical civil rights cases that shaped our nation were heard. Died Scott suit for freedom and Virginia Minor for voting rights. We also visited the Gateway Arches National Park and the newly dedicated Freedom’s Home statue dedicated to slaves who sought redress before the civil war. Finally, we deepened our experience with meditation and prayer time at Kiener Plaza Park.

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ADDITIONAL PROJECT DETAILS





ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC PARISH

All Saints Catholic Parish (All Saints) is a merger of two of Evansville's oldest parishes: St. Anthony Parish and St. Joseph Parish. The Welborn Baptist Foundation (Welborn) awarded the organization a Christ-Centered Living (CCL) grant to support the work of All Saints' social justice ministry.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

All Saints' staff have been working diligently to raise awareness for and engage parish and community members in justice initiatives:

- ◆ **A Justice Brochure** was created and printed in July 2021 as a marketing resource for parishioners and visitors, community partners, neighbors, and justice program participants. The brochure has been used to market justice activities and educate the community about how they might get involved in charity and justice work.
- ◆ **A Justice Ministry Coordinator** was hired by All Saints in April 2022.
- ◆ **Prayer Cards** were created for parishioners and visitors to use in guiding their prayers for justice. These prayer cards were distributed at all three Masses one weekend in July 2022. Prayer cards have also been delivered to home bound parishioners and distributed at justice program activities. The Justice Prayer is said by all the congregation after petitions and the prayer for Ukraine after announcements every week.
- ◆ **The All Saints Justice Ministry Committee** has been engaged in growing their own personal commitment towards justice. Several committee members read Tom Ulrich's book *On Earth as It is in Heaven: Organizing Social Justice Ministry in Faith Communities: A Model that Works*. In April-May 2022, the committee and the Parish Council completed a baseline assessment of the All Saints Justice Ministry.
- ◆ **Let Us Dream Discussion Series** was held for parishioners from June to August 2022. Discussion groups were set up around Mass times, held for four weeks, and read and discussed the Encyclical letter Fratelli Tutti, the papal study guide, and *Let Us Dream* study guide. A total of **16 parishioners** attended.
- ◆ **A Pilgrimage to St. Louis** was organized for members of All Saints and Mt. Olive Galilee Baptist Church in September 2022. The pilgrimage was a full-day trip where **27 individuals** received a tour of sites in St. Louis by Rev. Edwards, attended Mass at St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church, and lunched with the church's Peace and Justice Commission while Dr. John Wright, Sr. spoke about civil rights in St. Louis. The pilgrimage also included a visit to Freedom's Home statue, the Old Courthouse at Gateway Arch NP, and Kiener Park (for a privilege walk and meditation/prayer).
- ◆ **Pilgrimage follow-up activities** took place at the end of 2022, which included (1) a follow up meeting discussing the impact of the pilgrimage on participants; (2) attending a justice-focused movie (Till) and discussing the movie's impact; (3) writing a letter to the editors of *The Courier and Press*, *Our Times*, *The Message*, and the *St. Louis Review* with a picture of the group in Keiner Park and sharing about their pilgrimage experience; (4) and attending a two-hour Zoom training on Exploring White Nationalism with Fr. Joseph Brown as invitees of the St. Alphonsus Peace and Justice Commission.
- ◆ **Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment (CAJE)** events and activities (e.g., rallies, celebrations) have been additional opportunities for All Saints congregants and community members to engage in social justice efforts.

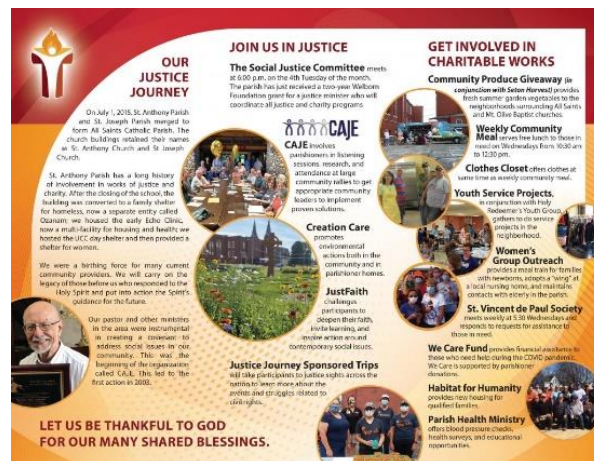


ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC PARISH

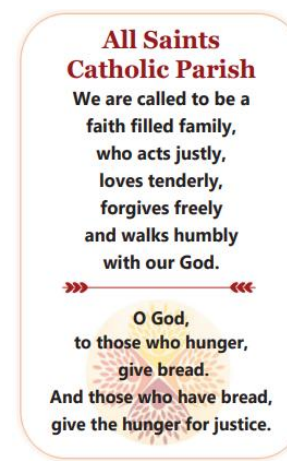
SUCCESSSES

- ◆ The hiring of the Justice Ministry Coordinator has been a great success for the initiative. The individual who was hired is dedicated to her role and to the justice ministry. She makes herself available to anyone who is interested in justice and is a regular presence at all three Masses.
- ◆ All Saints staff, and the Justice Ministry Coordinator in particular, have put forth a great amount of effort and have been able to accomplish a great deal of activities in a short amount of time.
- ◆ Beyond the planned implementation activities highlighted above, All Saints has seen parish members voluntarily engaging in justice-oriented efforts in the community, including attending the memorial dedication for lynching victims in Mt. Vernon (October 2022). Additionally, previous JustFaith participants raised money to honor and commend Sophie Kloppenberg for her efforts in getting the events documented and memorialized. There is a planned celebration scheduled for late January 2023 in her honor.
- ◆ The Justice Ministry Coordinator has participated in training the trainer opportunities with JustFaith to improve the quality of facilitation of the Want To Talk? Series. She also participated in training opportunities with Flocknotes to improve the use of communication tools and their registration programs for All Saints justice activities.
- ◆ All Saints has also successfully transitioned administrative leadership from Father Jay to Sharon Vogler, Pastoral Life Coordinator. This transition of administrative leadership has allowed Father Jay to be the sacramental leader but retire from the administrative leadership role of the parish.

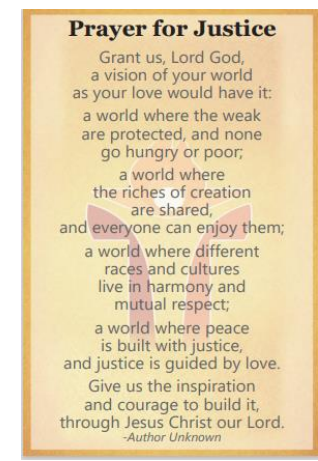
Justice Ministry resources created by All Saints:



Justice Brochure



Prayer Card



Prayer Card



ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC PARISH

■ CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

- ◆ Creating change can be hard. For example, incorporating the prayer cards into the All Saints' services required navigating internal politics. Then once approval was given, it was given for five months with the need to re-evaluate their use (after five months the Justice Prayer was approved as a permanent piece of Mass).
- ◆ One of All Saints' partner organizations, CAJE, has had leadership changes. These changes may affect All Saints' ability to bring as many people as they would like to the rally and action events and may also take more of the Justice Ministry Coordinator's time (as she is also on the board for CAJE).
- ◆ While All Saints has accomplished much, there is much more that the parish would like to do; however, staff recognize the constraints of having limited time.
- ◆ The Justice Ministry Coordinator is continuing to learn more about how to bring faith communities together and is also new at learning about the grant process.

■ NEXT STEPS

- ◆ All Saints would like to continue collaborating with Mt. Olive Galilee Baptist Church to have more pilgrimages. Future trips could include a one-day trip to Cincinnati to see the National Underground Railroad Museum and/or a three-day pilgrimage to significant civil rights sites in the South (Atlanta, Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma).
- ◆ All Saints and Mt. Olive are partnering for monthly Evansville Pilgrimages. Kelly Coures will discuss Evansville's racial history and its impact on housing at the African American Museum in February 2023 with a tour of the museum following. Future discussions will be offered on the impact race has on education, employment, politics, religion, health, criminal justice, and the history of Evansville civil rights as documented by print media.
- ◆ All Saints is offering a JustFaith program, co-sponsored with BRIDGE, called Want to Talk?: Communications Tools for Divided Times. This eight-week program will be offered in the spring of 2023. Attendees will learn skills for having meaningful conversations and maintaining relationships and communication in a way that helps increase understanding and reduces polarization.
- ◆ All Saints plans to continue reaching out to other churches in the area, seeking to have discussions about opportunities for collaboration around justice initiatives, including expungement assistance.
- ◆ All Saints is helping facilitate a racial justice awareness weekend for churches in the Tri-State area through involvement with BRIDGE, For Evansville, and University of Evansville from February 17-19, 2023. Two parishioners are serving on the BRIDGE Events planning committee. The event will be held at each individual place of worship, with faith communities committing to speak about and/or pray for social justice with their congregations on the same day. The weekend also includes a community service for all faiths to come together and pray for the Tri-State area to be a place where all ethnicities and cultures feel a sense of belonging.
- ◆ All Saints plans to continue engagement with CAJE, including partnering with CAJE's five network action teams.