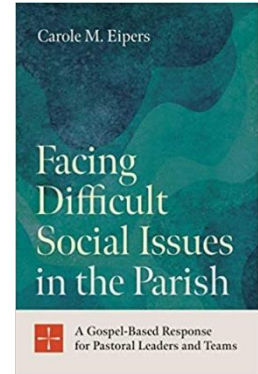


## Book Discussion: *Facing Difficult Social Issues in the Parish*

Please print and reflect on these questions in advance of our gathering. We will use them to guide our discussion of the book. Time will be given for participants to share on ONE of the questions in each grouping throughout our gathering.



### Part One – Intro and Chapters One and Two

1. From the list on page two, paragraph 3, what are the top two “challenges to love” you feel are present in your community?
2. Does your parish social outreach attend only to physical needs or is it an opportunity to evangelize?
3. When you think about your parish, what “seeds” of the Gospel do you want to nourish? What “weeds” need to be transformed?

### Part Two – Chapter Three – Works of Social Justice

1. As a parish, how do you evaluate whether or not you are successfully addressing social issues and reaching out to those on the margins effectively? Is your action followed by reflection?
2. What specific issues could your parish work harder to address, or what communities could you more intentionally reach out to?
3. What are the biggest lessons you have learned from walking with those on the margins?
4. How do we transition from *pondering* and discussing to *doing*?

### Part Three – Chapter Three – Reflecting on our response to our “neighbor”

1. What concerns block your ability or desire to recognize all people as your neighbor?
2. Why did you choose the parish that you attend?
3. What role does personal responsibility play when addressing poverty?
4. Are there areas in your community that you consider dangerous? Why did you determine that?

### Part Four – What difference does this make? How do we change?

1. Which of the five qualities of a child mentioned in our reading does your parish need right now (dependence, hope, compassion, imagination, trust)?
2. What in your parish points to a visual witness to inclusivity? What in your parish visually points to exclusion? What message are you sending without speaking?
3. Children are hopeful. Does your leadership believe change can happen? Why or why not? Where can hope be instilled?
4. Children are dependent. Who do you need to collaborate with to make changes happen at the parish level?