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Beyond Our Boundaries



Are You
 "Working" the Word?
 To be truly transformed
 by the Gospel message,
 we cannot just
 speak about service,
 we must do it:

"Be doers of the word and
 not hearers only, deluding
 yourselves."

JAMES 1:22, NAB



Beyond Our Boundaries



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MUSTARD SEED COMMUNITIES AND PAULIST PRESS
 are proud to introduce an important
 Catholic formation program designed to
 build a deeper life of prayer and raise the level
 of awareness and commitment in service
 to the most vulnerable in your community
 and around the world.



Beyond Our Boundaries



MUSTARD SEED COMMUNITIES
 AND PAULIST PRESS



"The miracle is
 when you stop your
 own life and follow
 the Gospel message,
 which asks all of us
 to work with our
 Christian brothers
 and sisters—who, in
 this case, are the
 most vulnerable—
 with true love."

CHAD WILSON
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 in Columbus, Ohio)

"And the king
 will say to them
 in reply,
 'Amen, I say to you,
 whatever you did
 for one of these
 least brothers
 of mine,
 you did for me.'"

MATTHEW 25:40



A Program for the Catholic Faithful

"I know your works; I know that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot (not lukewarm)... Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, (then) I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me. I will give (him) the right to sit with me on my throne, as I myself first won the victory and sit with my Father on his throne."
(Revelation 3:15, 20-21)

Prayer and service answer our baptismal call: "My outlook on life has changed to accommodate the needs of others, to be more generous and sincere to others, and to seek God's direction. In other words, I became a better Christian."
—Michelle Graham-Shines (MSC-USA)

The Second Vatican Council invited all "to a profound interior renewal, so that having a lively awareness of their personal responsibility for the spreading of the Gospel, they may play their part in missionary work among the nations."

Work the Word, a ministry of Mustard Seed Communities, has been fully approved by the Catholic Church and received the *imprimatur* of John Francis Donoghue, Archbishop of Atlanta. It is distributed through Paulist Press, a leading Catholic publisher of books and materials for parish renewal.

Mustard Seed Communities' aim is to uplift the most vulnerable members of society, especially the disabled and abandoned children, through the positive interaction of caring, sharing and training. **Work the Word** is an important ministry in this effort.



Work the Word is based on scripture, the sacraments of Initiation and Reconciliation, spirituality, and the tradition of the Church. It will provide great benefit to the participant, the parish/local church, the community, and the world. This path-breaking program will serve to guide participants as they:

- ◆ Revitalize themselves, their parish, and their faith community;
- ◆ Experience a deeper conversion, no matter where they are on their faith journey;
- ◆ Answer their baptismal call to discipleship;
- ◆ Discover the Scriptures in a new and vital way;
- ◆ Live and share their life of faith by following Jesus in simplicity, freedom, generosity, and community;
- ◆ Serve the most vulnerable in their community and around the world.



Work the Word is an ideal solution to help baptized Catholics respond to God's call to live out the Gospel: In Giving, You Receive. It will guide participants to increase their prayer life, help them develop the virtues of simplicity and generosity, and bring them into a greater communion relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

How It Works

The **Work the Word** program is based on a small group structure and is organized into two seasons and a service mission. Taken together, these elements comprise a total of 10 sessions.

- ◆ The first season is designed to help participants prepare for their service mission through prayer and reflection.
- ◆ At any time following the completion of Season 1, they can embark on their service mission (session 7) itself. This mission can either be taken locally or in the world community.
- ◆ Following their return from their service mission, parishioners participate in the second season, which is designed to help them build on their experiences.

When Do We Start Work the Word?

You can do it at any time. Season 1 is a particularly strong program for:

- ◆ RCIA
- ◆ Lent
- ◆ A fall program
- ◆ Confirmation

What Do the Sessions Consist Of?

Season 1 Sessions

1. Simplicity of Commitment
2. Simplicity of Faith
3. Simplicity of Life
4. Freedom to Be Myself
5. Freedom of Desire
6. Freedom for Action
7. How Can I Work the Word? Mission Experience Options:
 - a) Mission Trip Outside the USA
 - b) Work the Word Immersion Trip
 - c) Service Projects for Mustard Seed Communities
 - d) A Service Mission in Your Community

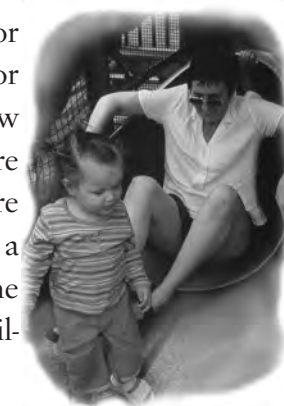
Season 2 Sessions

8. Bread of Generosity
9. Community of Faith
10. Global Community



No Special Skills Are Required

The entire program is contained in user-friendly manuals for Leaders and Participants (there are no additional fees or charges). The *Leader's Manual* includes simple-to-follow directions for facilitating the gatherings—no special skills are needed to facilitate these sessions. Additional resources are available, including a *Mission Trip Leader's Guide*, a *Mission Trip Journal*, and support materials to assist in the recruitment of participants. All of these resources are available in both English and Spanish.



Making the Gospel Message Come to Life

The service mission of **Work the Word** takes us *beyond our boundaries* either in the local or world community. A service mission allows the faith community to come to "know" the vulnerable and not just "do something" for "those people." In "being with" the vulnerable, the participant experiences a deeper conversion. Knowing the vulnerable outside everyday boundaries in our local or world community enables the participants to know Christ in others and Christ in themselves.

On returning, participants will be filled with the Spirit they received, in God and in prayer, as they branch out into continued service of their families, parish and community.

The Challenge: Work the Word in Your Life

Baptism is God's covenant with us—that He will not abandon us as we face the strong currents and consuming flames of everyday life...It's His side of the bargain.

What is your side? Are you willing to go through the fire or through water to meet Him? That is our baptismal vow.

As God's co-creator, He has given you the final say as to whether or not He can come into your heart and transform your life.

Are you ready to say "yes" to His plan?

Work the Word Beyond Our Boundaries

A Catholic formation program of prayer and service to the most vulnerable in your community and around the world

A MINISTRY OF MUSTARD SEED COMMUNITIES

For more information log onto www.mustardseed.com

or

E-mail: worktheword@mustardseed.com

TRANSFORMING LIVES—
YOURS AND THEIRS
Here are examples
of what service missions
have meant in people's lives:

"The children (of Mustard Seed Communities)...see me for who I am, not who I think I am. To a child, it is rather meaningless to state, 'I am a computer consultant who travels all over and makes much money.' And that means what to them? 'Does that mean you can hug me and read to me and play games? That is all I wish you to be. Nothing more, nothing less. Just be—with me.'"

—Matt Gardner
(four-time Mustard Seed missionary from Atlanta)

"The mission brought me literally out of my fast paced, busy and self-centered world and into a place of service, peace and beautiful children who—in my busy world are considered burdens... It was instant clarity for my life."
—Stephanie Larson
(mission trip leader and organizer in Los Angeles)

◆ ◆ ◆
"It is our prayerful hope that everyone who participates in Work the Word will be inspired to answer the call to serve God's poor."

In Matthew 25:40, the Lord is not saying, 'I was hungry, and I wanted you to send your neighbor to feed me.' Rather, He said, 'You are to feed me.'"
—Fr. Gregory Ramkissoon
(founder and executive director of Mustard Seed Communities)