



Dorothy Day: Radical Devotion

GUIDE FOR SERVICE PROJECTS AND/OR SERVICE LEARNING

Dorothy Day: Radical Devotion, written by Jeffry Odell Korgen and illustrated by Christopher Cardinale, is a graphic biography that introduces readers to the amazing life of Dorothy Day, reviews her impact on the Church and peace and justice movements, and provides an informative understanding of the process of canonization.

Dorothy Day: Radical Devotion can aid theological reflection before and after service using the Act-Reflect-Transform (ART) process.

Before engaging in service, it may be helpful to reflect on these questions:

- What inspired Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin to found the first house of hospitality?
- How did they view the guests they welcomed?
- How did Dorothy Day live out Matt. 25:31-46 and the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-12) through her ministry?



Act

Face-to-face interaction and accompaniment is most conducive to theological reflection and transformation.



Reflect

After completing service, create a prayerful and reflective space for youth to process their service experience.

If a Catholic Worker house exists near you, reach out beforehand to invite a member of the Catholic Worker community to speak with your group. The speaker could share reflections on: the life and witness of Dorothy Day, how the Catholic Worker community lives out her vision, the reality of poverty in your community, and opportunities to join with the Catholic Workers in their work.

The following questions may be useful in aiding individual reflection and group discussion:

- Where did you see Christ present during your service?
- What did you observe during your service that was similar to or different from Dorothy's approach toward people in poverty?
- What challenges do people in poverty face? Did your service experience offer any insights as to why those challenges are faced by so many?
- What does Catholic Social Teaching (CST) have to say about those issues or challenges?
- What aspects of CST inspired Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement?



Transform

Be sure to offer tangible opportunities to put faith in action following service. If you invited a speaker from the Catholic Worker, ask him or her to share some ideas.

In addition, you may:

- Identify changes in lifestyle—for example, living more simply—in solidarity with people in poverty. Ask: Why do you think voluntary poverty was part of Dorothy Day's vision and practice? How does this challenge you?
- Discuss the Two Feet of Love in Action. How did Dorothy Day walk with both feet during her life?
- What advocacy efforts exist to address laws and policies that can help address the challenges faced by people in poverty?