



# Dorothy Day: Radical Devotion

## GUIDE FOR A BOOK CLUB OR SMALL FAITHSHARING GROUP

*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.

With the cause of canonization for Dorothy Day underway, it is the perfect time to become familiar with the inspiring life and witness of Day. This guide includes suggestions for how a book club or small faithsharing group can use *Dorothy Day: Radical Devotion* for prayer, reflection, discussion, and mission.



### Opening Prayer/Reflection

Share with group members this depiction of the Works of Mercy featured in *The Illuminator*, a newsletter about art and artists of the Catholic Worker Movement.

Invite a group member to slowly and prayerfully read Matt. 5:1-12 (The Beatitudes).

The group leader can then offer a prayer, asking for the intercession of Dorothy Day that Christ may fill our hearts with a hunger to live the Beatitudes in imitation of her work and ministry.



### Discussion Questions

Feel free to conduct the discussion portion of your meeting in a manner familiar to your group. The following questions may help provoke thoughtful discussion:

- What scenes or images most struck or stayed with you from *Dorothy Day: Radical Devotion*?
- How did Dorothy live out the Beatitudes?
- What was the connection for Dorothy between prayer and her work/ministry?
- Dorothy experienced criticism from within the movement and from wider society, resulting, at times, in loss of financial support and even violence against her. Reflect on those times in light of her prophetic role and commitment to the Gospel. How did she stay the course during these turbulent times?
- Revisit some of the excerpts from Dorothy's own writing that are featured in several scenes. (Group members can read them aloud as they flip through the pages and find them.) What do you learn about Dorothy through reading these words?
- What art of the Catholic Worker movement is featured within the graphic biography? What do those images communicate to you?
- Why do you think the graphic biography is titled *Dorothy Day: Radical Devotion*?
- What observations do you have about Dorothy's accompaniment of workers, people in poverty, women, the civil rights movement, and farmworkers, and her unwavering commitment to pacifism? How does her witness inspire or challenge you in your own life?
- What connections or implications might Dorothy Day's story have for the current day?



## Closing Prayer

Close with this prayer from the Dorothy Day Guild.

“God our Father, Your servant Dorothy Day exemplified the Catholic faith by her life of prayer, voluntary poverty, works of mercy, and witness to the justice and peace of the Gospel of Jesus. May her life inspire your people to turn to Christ as their Savior, to see His face in the world’s poor, and to raise their voices for the justice of God’s kingdom.

I pray that her holiness may be recognized by your Church and that you grant the following favor that I humbly ask through her intercession:

**(here mention your request)**

I ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**”



## Community/Fellowship

If your group shares fellowship through a meal following your discussion, honor the spirit of Dorothy Day with a very simple meal, since Dorothy chose voluntary poverty throughout her life in solidarity with those in need.