Resources for:
Practicing Our Faith

Our mission is to assist Greater Indianapolis Area congregations in finding and using the very best resources available to address the practical challenges they face. This resource list was developed to supplement a workshop, Practicing Our Faith in Your Congregation, sponsored by the Center and led by Dorothy Bass, Director of the Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith, and Craig Dykstra, Vice President for Religion at Lilly Endowment Inc. Dorothy Bass recommends the following resources:

Bass, Dorothy C. (ed.). Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for the Searching People. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1997. This book explores twelve central Christian practices that woven together, form a way of life that is faithful and has integrity. The book’s thirteen contributors, from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds, explore each practice – such as honoring the body, forgiving one another, and keeping the Sabbath – by placing it in its historical and biblical context, reexamining its relevance to our times, and showing how it gives depth and meaning to daily life. A companion study guide, Practicing Our Faith: A Guide for Conversation, Learning, and Growth, is also available.

Bass, Dorothy C. Receiving the Day: Christian Practices of Opening the Gift of Time. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 2000. For busy people who see time as an adversary to be managed, manipulated and controlled, this book provides a fresh vision of time as a gift from God, waiting to be unwrapped and savored with true presence and delight. Drawing wisdom from poets, theologians, and monastics -- as well as from her own story -- Bass shows how the Christian practice of receiving the day invites us to live with boldness and creativity.


Pohl, Christine D. Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999. This book portrays how communities and individuals can be blessed and transformed by greeting, welcoming, and sheltering others -- especially strangers -- in the name of Christ. Although hospitality was central to Christian identity and practice in earlier centuries, our generation knows little about its life-giving character. Combining rich biblical and historical research with extensive exposure to modern service communities this book shows how understanding the key features of hospitality can better equip us to faithfully carry out the practical call of the gospel.

The Center is interested in holding ongoing conversations with you. We invite your feedback as you use these and other resources to encourage your congregation to practice our faith.