

Advocacy and the Social Justice Alliance Committee

At St. John's Jesuit, the Christian Service Department seeks to develop *Men for Others*. Meeting the needs of people by serving them directly is essential. But developing an inner sensitivity and awareness of social justice issues that students can serve indirectly – for example, through letter writing campaigns, passive and active protests, and awareness weeks -- is a critical part of the process. We develop awareness and sensitivity not for the sake of awareness and sensitivity; rather the intent is to transform not only the way in which people habitually think and act, but of the very way in which they live in the world.

Social Justice Alliance

The Social Justice Alliance (SJA) is a voluntary student organization mentored by faculty and staff members. The objective of the group is to raise in students an awareness and sensitivity to the plight of others. Our desire is to develop students who are committed to doing justice in all aspects of their lives. Every year, students of the SJA host an Awareness Week. Students select a topic on which the school focuses for a week. Activities and guest speakers are scheduled to explore all sides of an issue, and students decide for themselves if injustice is present. Past topics have included sweatshop labor, hunger, the School of the Americas and others.



Additionally, the SJA sponsors two advocacy trips to Washington, D.C. The first is the ***Jesuit Teach-In***, which occurs in November on the anniversary of the deaths of the Jesuit Martyrs of El Salvador. Students from Jesuit high schools and universities from all over the United States descend on our nation's capital to continue the work of the Jesuit martyrs by advocating, in the light of Catholic Social Teaching, for those people who cannot speak for themselves. The second trip, ***March for Life***, occurs in January every year on the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade; the U.S. Supreme Court case which legalized abortion. SJJ students, join with other Catholic high school students from Toledo, to speak out for the unborn and to lobby their representatives on many life issues.

