

# What is RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Restorative justice is an approach to justice that emphasizes living in right relationship and resonates deeply with Gospel values and Catholic social teaching.

In restorative justice, crime and harm are understood in terms of the people and relationships impacted, rather than solely the law or rule that was broken. Restorative practices seek to repair harm through transformative encounters that model Jesus' reconciling way.

*"Justice is properly sought solely out of love of justice itself, out of respect for the victims, as a means of preventing new crimes and protecting the common good, not as an alleged outlet for personal anger."*

(Pope Francis, "Fratelli Tutti" 252)

## PRINCIPLES

Where human dignity and relationships are violated by harm and injustice, restorative justice can:

- Uphold **HUMAN DIGNITY**
- Build **JUST RELATIONSHIPS**
- Seek **HEALING**
- Promote **ACCOUNTABILITY**
- Advance **RACIAL EQUITY**
- Enable **TRANSFORMATION**

## OPPORTUNITIES IN MINISTRY

### Public Education and Community Resilience

Learn, embrace, and raise awareness of restorative justice and its applications.

### Creating a Restorative Ministry

Integrate restorative justice principles and practices within an existing ministry to meet needs, repair relationships, and create spaces for communal healing.

### Becoming a Restorative Institution

Develop restorative justice as an organization's primary response to internal harms and injustices.

### Supporting a Restorative Initiative

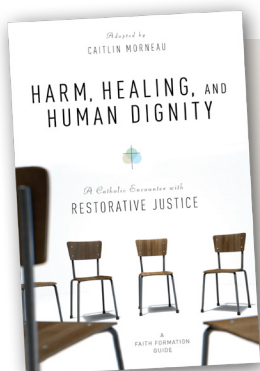
Partner with external organizations dedicated to restorative justice and provide supports that might help it thrive and grow.



# Ongoing Opportunities in RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

*“There is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.”*

*(Pope Francis, “Fratelli Tutti” 225)*



## Restorative Justice Resources

Visit CMN's online restorative justice resource library for books, videos, handouts, and more: [catholicmobilizing.org/rj-resources](https://catholicmobilizing.org/rj-resources)

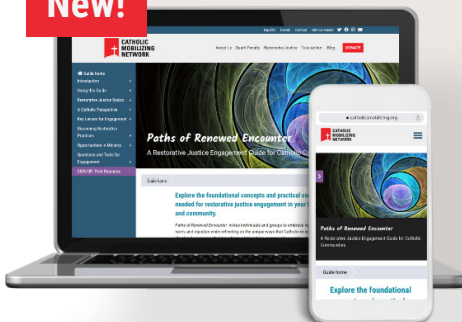
Pictured: CMN's faith formation guide, *Harm, Healing, and Human Dignity: A Catholic Encounter with Restorative Justice* (Liturgical Press, 2019)

## Restorative Circle Events

Experience the foundational restorative practice of circle process and learn about the possible applications for restorative circles in Catholic ministry: [catholicmobilizing.org/circle-events](https://catholicmobilizing.org/circle-events)



New!



## Paths of Renewed Encounter: A Restorative Justice Engagement Guide for Catholic Communities

Get practical guidance on how to integrate restorative justice within the unique context of Catholic ministry: [catholicmobilizing.org/paths](https://catholicmobilizing.org/paths)

## The Hope Over Death Blog

Subscribe to read the stories, reflections, and insights of people of faith working to transform our broken criminal legal system: [catholicmobilizing.org/blog](https://catholicmobilizing.org/blog)



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