

## Frequently Asked Questions **DARE TO BELIEVE, RISE UP TO ACT**

### **What is the question that DARE TO BELIEVE answers?**

The question is: **“How do we create a world that materializes Jesus’ vision—God’s original vision—of a world that works for everyone?”**

The more hands-on question is this: **“How do we, in our place and time, bring about the reign of God, the Kingdom whose coming we pray for daily?”**

In essence: **“How shall we, anointed men and women of God, be the answer to our prayer?”**

Pope Francis, in line with his predecessors, addresses the many interconnected dimensions of the stark realities of our world today. DARE TO BELIEVE, RISE UP TO ACT brings his words to life so that we can claim God’s vision for this world as our own.

### **Who is asking this question?**

The church can ask this question—How do we create a world that works for everyone? Often, then, it becomes the church’s project.

What really begs the question—not *who* but *what*—is **human and creational anguish in all its forms**, arising from the moral, social, ecological, and economic imbalances that tear apart the human and ecological community which God originally envisioned.

In short, it’s the world’s anguish that makes DARE TO BELIEVE, RISE UP TO ACT a **necessary and urgent response of the church**. The world right now is calling forth the church’s mission—to remain in Christ and to reveal him everywhere. The world is dying, literally, for **church to be church for the sake of the world**.

The **great temptation** for church today is not concerning belief in God or the belief in the reality of evil. The great temptation is to believe that, **with regard to our mission, there is no hurry**.

### **What sets DARE TO BELIEVE, RISE UP TO ACT apart from other parish programs?**

As a process of “waking up” (read: conversion of heart), the “Dare to Believe” part is **the dare to believe Jesus**. Not just believe *in* him—an intellectual activity—but to **actually believe him**. To believe that he is serious about God’s vision for the human community, serious about the demands of discipleship, serious about the work of healing and compassion and justice and redemption.

“Dare to Believe” asks for total skin in the game, all hands on deck, a complete givenness to following Jesus. It asks for **wholeheartedness**, which is the first element in the Great Commandment.

The “Rise Up to Act” part is the **natural response of a converted heart**. Some will rise up to evangelize. Some will rise up to relieve suffering. Some will rise up to change systems of injustice and oppression. And some will create and work within systems of justice and generosity.

Every Christ-centered man, woman, and youth, every Christ-centered marriage, every Christ-centered household, is anointed in the Holy Spirit to dare to believe Jesus and to rise up to act in the power of this belief.

Pastoral and catechetical leaders as well as laity will find a **fire-in-the-belly challenge** in DARE TO BELIEVE, RISE UP TO ACT which other programs rarely offer. Given the lateness of the hour in which we find ourselves, **fire in the belly is appropriate and urgently needed**.

### **Who is the ideal audience for DARE TO BELIEVE, RISE UP TO ACT?**

Since our towns and regions do not think or function in terms of parish boundaries, DARE TO BELIEVE, RISE UP TO ACT works with **clusters of parishes, or a diocese as a whole** and radiating outward to deaneries or regional clusters of parishes.

At this regional level, DARE TO BELIEVE addresses:

- **pastoral and catechetical leaders, catechists, and social-minded diocesan or parish visionaries**, through the two-day PASTORAL AND CATECHETICAL LEADERS INSERVICE
- **lay men and women** who are engaged in church and life in the world, through the weekend PARISH IMMERSION, followed by twice-a-month small group ACCOUNTABILITY CIRCLES
- **Families and households** of those who are extended family network, or single, divorced, widowed, or empty-nesters, through a weekend FAMILY CAMP to strengthen home church practices for faith-filled witness in the world
- **Younger youth (6th through 9th grades)**, in age-appropriate clusters, who are thinking about or preparing for Confirmation, or who are already confirmed, through the JUNIOR YOUTH CHALLENGE
- **Older youth (10th through 12th grades)**, who are forming opinions and making decisions about “church,” or who are ready (knowingly or not) to be called forth for more responsible engagement in the church and in society, through the SENIOR YOUTH CHALLENGE

### **What is your motive with DARE TO BELIEVE?**

My motive is love. I pray daily for all those whom the Lord will lead me to touch through my work, and whom he yearns to touch through me. I pray for each of those encounters, and for the ways I will be touched through them. My motive is love.

## What qualifies you to do this work?

I am qualified in two important ways:

1. **I am baptized and anointed for worthy work**—as every baptized person is. My work as a lay person is to **pastorally love and care for the church** through teaching, evangelizing, modeling what it looks like to follow Jesus, and encouraging others to discern their calling. I have served the church locally, regionally, and throughout the United States for twenty years
2. **I bring a fruitful blend of education** (Master’s in Theological Studies, Franciscan School of Theology, Berkeley); **formation** (parish leadership in Youth Ministry and Adult Faith Formation); **specialization** (immersion studies in liturgical spirituality and charism discernment); and **lived experience** in daring to believe and rising up to act (revealed engagingly and compellingly in my stories)

Further background, client parishes served, testimonials, and more can be found on [my speaker page at Catholic Speakers Organization](#).

I did not “come up with” DARE TO BELIEVE, RISE UP TO ACT. It came to me as a gift, the fruit of decades of **sitting with scripture, living with sacrament, and apprenticing faithfully** to following Jesus according to his grace and the ways I have been gifted and called forth. My work has been to receive this gift and to develop it as fully and as cleanly as I can.

## What does DARE TO BELIEVE, RISE UP TO ACT cost?

I work with the client diocese or parish cluster so that the entire process is workable. The actual agreement is handled by [Catholic Speakers Organization](#). I offer a **20% discount to parishes within Catholic Extension dioceses**.

## If we want to move forward, what is the next step?

First, visit the DARE TO BELIEVE page on [my website](#), and download the free resources.

Then contact me at [marysharonmoore@gmail.com](mailto:marysharonmoore@gmail.com), or call me at **541.687.2046** (Pacific), so that we can explore your needs, your interests, and your situation, and begin a fruitful conversation.