



**ST. JOHN'S  
UNIVERSITY**

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

# Interdisciplinary Minor in Social Justice: Theory and Practice in the Vincentian Tradition

## ABOUT THE INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

The minor in Social Justice: Theory and Practice in the Vincentian Tradition at St. John's University enhances students' understanding of the political, racial, economic, and social inequalities in their own communities and around the world, as well as their own moral and ethical responsibilities to address these inequalities. The interdisciplinary curriculum, grounded in Catholic social teaching, includes courses that address ethical, environmental, urban, theological, and sociological topics with the goal of helping students understand these issues and explore creative approaches to making a difference in the world.

The minor includes a service-learning component, encouraging students to put the ideas they learn in the classroom into practice—both locally and globally.

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MINOR IN SOCIAL JUSTICE?

The social justice minor is open to all undergraduate students and complements any major field of study. As an interdisciplinary minor, it incorporates and integrates ideas and practices from a wide range of programs, expanding students' understanding beyond their majors.

The minor provides excellent preparation for admission to the St. John's M.A. program in Global Development and Social Justice. It also creates opportunities to pursue further study and careers in sustainable development, nonprofit organizations, international aid, and human rights. Students who have completed the social justice minor have gone on to law school, to the Peace Corps, and to graduate studies in the social and natural sciences, all with the aim of making a difference in the world for the better.

## A GLOBAL EDUCATION

St. John's seeks to increase students' awareness of the world, both at home and abroad. The minor in social justice offers students the opportunity to learn first-hand about issues of inequality and human rights through semester-long or intersession study abroad programs as well as on-campus and distance learning courses. For more information about study abroad, please visit [stjohns.edu/globalstudies](http://stjohns.edu/globalstudies).





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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Facing the challenges of his own era head-on, Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam recognized that serious study went hand-in-hand with direct action to make a positive difference in the world. Ozanam said, "The problem which divides people today is not a political problem, it is a social one. It is a matter of knowing who will get the upper hand, the spirit of selfishness or the spirit of sacrifice; whether society will go for ever-increasing enjoyment and profit, or for everyone devoting themselves to the general good, and above all to the defense of the weakest." These were insights that came to Ozanam during his years as a university student in 19th-century Paris, insights that motivated him to join with fellow students to establish what has come to be known as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Inspired by the example of Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam and by his confidence that study and service can come together to transform society, St. John's interdisciplinary minor in social justice offers students the opportunity to make a difference for justice in the world. Providing students with resources for understanding the root causes of injustice in its many forms and best practices for action and advocacy on behalf of local and global justice, this interdisciplinary minor can equip you to make a difference for the good in the 21st century. I look forward to discussing this exciting interdisciplinary minor with you and answering any questions you may have.

### Rev. Jean-Pierre M. Ruiz, S.T.D.

Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies and Director  
[ruizj@stjohns.edu](mailto:ruizj@stjohns.edu)

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

The University strives to place an outstanding higher education within the financial reach of all qualified applicants. Each academic year, the Office of Student Financial Services awards more than \$500 million in aid to students who demonstrate financial need. The Office of Undergraduate Admission also awards competitive academic scholarships.

For more information about scholarships and financial aid, please visit  
**[stjohns.edu/admission-aid/tuition-and-financial-aid](https://stjohns.edu/admission-aid/tuition-and-financial-aid)**.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS

### Rev. Jean-Pierre M. Ruiz, S.T.D.

Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies and Director  
Interdisciplinary Minor in Social Justice: Theory and Practice in the Vincentian Tradition  
St. John's University  
8000 Utopia Parkway  
Queens, NY 11439  
718-990-5038  
[ruizj@stjohns.edu](mailto:ruizj@stjohns.edu)

## ADMISSION INFORMATION

Office of Undergraduate Admission  
1-888-9STJOHNS

**[admission@stjohns.edu](mailto:admission@stjohns.edu)**

**[stjohns.edu/admission-aid/undergraduate-admission](https://stjohns.edu/admission-aid/undergraduate-admission)**