



SOLIDARITY

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Basic - God made everyone, so we are all brothers and sisters in God's family wherever we live.

More - We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice." The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

CST 101: Solidarity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cteMjwOBptw&t=57s>

EXAMPLES FROM SCRIPTURE Taken from the USCCB website.

Genesis 12:1-3 - God blessed Israel so that all nations would be blessed through it.

Psalms 72 - Living in right relationship with others brings peace.

Psalms 122 - Peace be with you! For the sake of the Lord, I will seek your good.

Zechariah 8:16 - These are the things you should do: Speak truth, judge well, make peace.

Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peacemakers, they will be called children of God.

Matthew 5:21-24 - Be reconciled to one another before coming to the altar.

Romans 13:8-10 - Living rightly means to love one another.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 - If one member of Christ's body suffers, all suffer. If one member is honored, all rejoice.

Colossians 3:9-17 - Above all, clothe yourself with love and let the peace of Christ reign in your hearts.

1 John 3:16-18 - The love of God in us is witnessed to by our willingness to lay down our lives for others as Christ did for us.



SOLIDARITY

PRAYER SERVICE

SET UP

- Place this week's picture in your prayer area
- Light a candle
- Open Bible to 1 Corinthians 12:22-26

GATHER

Gather around your prepared prayer space. Take a minute to quiet the noise around you and turn your focus towards God.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Song: Open My Eyes Lord

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

I live within you. Deep in your heart, O Love.
I live within you. Rest now in me.

LISTEN

Now take time to listen to God speaking to you through Scripture.

Reader 1: A reading from a letter to the Corinthians

"Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor,

and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

The Word of the Lord,
ALL: Thanks be to God.

SHARE

Pick a couple questions to talk about for a few minutes. If you get stuck on a question, just move on to a different one.

- The root words for compassion are "com" and "passion," meaning "to suffer with" another.
 - When have you experienced deep compassion for the suffering of another?
 - Have you ever experienced compassion for the pain of a stranger?
 - Has someone shown you compassion, by comforting you or shared in your hurt?
- When have you shared in someone's joy? How did it make you feel?
- What happens when someone in your family is happy or sad? How does it affect other members of your family?
- "[Solidarity] is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all." -St. John Paul II
 - Do you believe that "we are all responsible for all?" If so, how does this challenge you?
 - How can you join with others to take concrete steps - big or small - to help build a society of solidarity?

LISTEN

In light of the conversation you just had, read through the reading again.

Reader 2: A reading from a letter to the Corinthians

"Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

The Word of the Lord,
ALL: Thanks be to God.

RESPOND

Now that we have listened to God speaking to us, how are we going to respond to His message?

Place the map on the bottom of the page in your prayer space this week. Then throughout the week, pray for people all around the world! Prayer connects us all in a very powerful way! Remember, "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy."

SEND

Now that we have spent time in prayer with God, listening to His message and responded, we are sent. Challenged to go out and use what we have learned.

Leader:

Loving God, Father of all people, help sensitize us to the suffering of others so that we can overcome indifference and build up a civilization of love and solidarity. Amen.

ALL: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

