

LIFE, PEACE & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

“Love One Another”

Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity



“The solidarity that binds all men together as members of a common family makes it impossible for wealthy nations to look with indifference upon the hunger, misery and poverty of other nations whose citizens are unable to enjoy even elementary human rights. The nations of the world are becoming more and more dependent on one another and it will not be possible to preserve a lasting peace so long as glaring economic and social imbalances persist.”

-Pope John XXIII, Christianity and Social Progress, 1961. Quoted from “In the Footsteps of Jesus” 2004.

The theme of solidarity expresses the Church’s concern for world peace and international development. The Church speaks of a “universal common good” that reaches beyond our nation’s borders to the global community. We sometimes need to remind ourselves that we are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences. Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that “loving our neighbor” has global dimensions in an interdependent world.

We learned in Genesis that we are our brother’s and sister’s keeper. (Gen 4: 8-15) At the core of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Peace is more than a lack of conflict. Peace means we live in right relationship with others, ourselves, and God. Fifty years ago Pope Paul VI taught, “If you want peace, work for justice.” Then in 1987 in “On Social Concerns,” Pope John Paul II wrote, “Solidarity helps us to see the ‘other,’ whether a person, people, or nation. We cannot see them just as some kind of instrument, with a work capacity, and physical strength to be exploited, but as our neighbor.” We can focus on the social teaching of Solidarity by thinking and working for the common good both locally and globally.

Let us ask ourselves:

1. Do I see all members of the human family as my brothers and sisters?
2. Am I attentive only to needs of my local neighbors or do I learn to be attentive to those needs across the globe?
3. Do I lift up vulnerable populations throughout the world in my prayer?



Image Courtesy of Turelio

Wisdom from Pope Francis

“Serving means working beside the neediest of people, establishing with them first and foremost human relationships of closeness and bonds of solidarity. Serving means recognizing and accepting requests for justice and hope, and seeking roads together, real paths that lead to liberation.”

-Visit to the Jesuit Refugee Center in Rome. September 2013



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WATCH



Do we feel our connection to Christ also connects us to others? This

short video on **Solidarity** tells us that prayer and awareness should lead us to action. We want to do with them not for them.

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ACT



Solidarity has an important global dimension. Find out how you can volunteer

with **Catholic Charities** to help newly arrived immigrants.

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READ



This article from Fr. Fred Kammer S.J. reviews for us the Bishops' pastoral letter

regarding criminal justice, "**Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration**" from the year 2000.

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