

CST 101 SOLIDARITY

A discussion guide from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services

OPENING PRAYER: Together, pray, “Because We Are Yours.”

WATCH: “CST 101: Solidarity” on YouTube.

PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE:

Read this Scripture passage twice.

Invite participants to reflect silently after it is read the first time.

“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.”

(1 Corinthians 12:22-26)

SHARE:

To show compassion, from the root words “com” and “passion,” means “to suffer with” another.

- When have you experienced deep compassion for the suffering of another?
- Have you ever experienced compassion for the suffering of a stranger?

REFLECT ON TRADITION:

Read these passages aloud.

“[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



Photo courtesy of Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS

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, *On Social Concern (Sollicitudo rei Socialis)*, no. 38

“The solidarity which 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.”

—St. John XXIII, *Mother and Teacher (Mater et Magistra)*, no. 157

DISCUSS:

- Do you believe that “we are all really 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?

ACT:

Explore [this webpage](#) to learn how high school and university students are living out the call to solidarity through CRS Chapters and Clubs. How can you work to educate others about issues that impact our brothers and sisters at home and around the world?

SEND:

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

Visit crs.org/CST-101 or usccb.org/cst for all CST 101 resources, including the prayers, stories and videos linked to in these discussion guides.



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