

## Catholic Diocese of Raleigh

### SOLIDARITY



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 and requires us to eradicate racism and address the extreme poverty and disease plaguing so much of the world. Solidarity also includes the Scriptural call to welcome the stranger among us – including immigrants seeking work, a safe home, education for their children, and a decent life for their families. In light of the Gospel's invitation to be peacemakers, our commitment to solidarity with our neighbors – at home and abroad – also demands that we promote peace and pursue justice in a world marred by terrible violence and conflict. Decisions on the use of force should be guided by traditional moral criteria and undertaken only as a last resort. As Pope Paul VI taught: "If you want peace, work for justice" (*World Day of Peace Message*, January 1, 1972).

*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, No.53  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

"The Church has concern for those people who are struggling to escape hunger, misery, disease, and ignorance. The Second Vatican Council has propelled the Church to put itself in the service of all people...The extent of poverty is worldwide, and the people who hunger are making urgent appeals for help. Concrete action must be taken to encourage social justice among all nations and to offer less developed nations the means whereby they can further their own progress."

*Populorum Progressio*, No.1, 5, Pope Paul VI

### For Reflection:

"The community of believers was of one heart and one mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but, they had everything in common. With great power the Apostles bore witness to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all."

Acts 5: 32-33

### Faithful Citizenship Prayer:

*God our Father, may your Holy Spirit guide me in all my decisions and actions. Hear my prayers, and increase in me the will to follow your Son Jesus. Help me to draw on the resources of my faith as I use the opportunities of our democracy to shape a society more respectful of the life, dignity, and rights of the human person, especially the poor and vulnerable. I ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.*

[www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org)