

>>> **Catholic Social Teaching for Children** <<<
CST: Solidarity
Catechesis for the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh

Faced with the grave social problems which, with different characteristics, are present throughout America, Catholics know that they can find in the Church's social doctrine an answer which serves as a starting point in the search for practical solutions. Spreading this doctrine in an authentic pastoral priority. In this regard, special care must be taken to train lay persons capable of working, on the basis of the faith in Christ to transform earthly realities. *Ecclesia in America*, Pope John Paul II, 1999

Scripture

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ...And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. Gen. 1:27, 31

Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons.'" ...those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

Exodus 16:15-21

"You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry.

Exodus 22:20-23:9

The Sermon on the Mount Matt. 5-7

Who is my mother, and who are my brothers? ..whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister and mother. Matt. 12-48, 50

Judgement of the Nations (Parable of the sheep and goats) 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Matt. 25:31-46

Parable of the Good Samaritan Lk. 10:25

Our Father who art in heaven... Lk. 11:2

This is what I command you: love one another as I have loved you. Jn. 15:12

It pleased God to make absolute fullness reside in him, and by means of him to reconcile everything in his person, both on earth and in the heavens, making peace through the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:15-21

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us, and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1

Papal Encyclicals & Bishops' Statements

Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. 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. This virtue is described by John Paul II as "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."

Sharing Catholic Social Teaching, USCCB

Solidarity is action on behalf of the one human family calling us to help overcome the divisions in our world. Solidarity binds the rich to the poor. It makes the free zealous for the cause of the oppressed. It drives the comfortable and secure to take risks for the victims of tyranny and war. It calls those who are strong to care for those who are weak and vulnerable across the spectrum of human life. It opens homes and hearts to those in flight from terror and to migrants whose daily toil supports affluent lifestyles. Peacemaking, as Pope John Paul II has told us, is the work of solidarity.

Called to Global Solidarity, USCCB

The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. United in Christ they are led by the Holy Spirit in their journey to the Kingdom of their Father and they have welcomed the news of salvation which is meant for every person. That is why this community realizes that it is truly linked with humankind and its history by the deepest of bonds.

Gaudium et Spes, 1965

It falls to us, who receive the gifts of God in order to make them fruitful, to "sow" and "reap". If we do not, even what we have will be taken away from us (Parable of the talents: Mt. 25:14-30). A deeper study of these harsh words will make us commit ourselves more resolutely to the duty, which is urgent for everyone today, to work together for the full development of others: "development of the whole human being and of all people."

Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, Pope John Paul II, 1987

Learn More

Office of Peace & Justice, Catholic Diocese of Raleigh
www.dioceseofraleigh.org
 919-821-9751 jurski@raldioc.org

U.S. Catholic Bishops' Conference – Called to Global Solidarity
www.nccbuscc.org/sdwp/international/globalsolidarity.htm

Life and Dignity of Person >>> Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person >>> Call to Family, Community, Participation >>>

Solidarity >>> Care of Creation >>> Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers >>> Option for the Poor and Vulnerable >>>

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Objectives: To learn the themes of Catholic social teaching, its gift, its roots in the life of Christ and the Gospel, papal encyclicals and bishops' statements, its challenge to today's Catholics and its essential role in Catholic faith and identity.
 To journey more deeply in our life of faith; to respond in our world today as salt and light, and to rejoice in the Good News.
 To experience solidarity in Christ, locally and globally.

Overview

Read the Catholic Teaching on the reverse page.
 ~Reflect on this teaching :
 In your own life, your community, country and world.
 In connection with the other themes of CST listed on the border.
 In Jesus' life as the Son of Man.
 In terms of the reign of God.
 ~Expand your familiarity with Church teachings by reading *Called to Solidarity*, a 1997 US Catholic Bishops' that can be printed from www.nccb.uscc.org/sdwp/international/globalSolidarity.htm

Preparation

Check out *The Sneetches*, By Dr. Seuss at the library.
Supplies: Newsprint
 Drawing Paper
 Markers
 Notebook Paper
 Pencils
 Think of a summary of solidarity in your own words, beginning with the two great Commandments, and God's love for all creation.
 The children will surprise us with their understanding of solidarity!

Solidarity – One Hour Curriculum

Read the story of the Sneetches. Have the children brainstorm the following and write answers on newsprint:
 If this book isn't just about Sneetches, what is it about?
 More discussion questions:
 What if we were all the same? What would our day be like?
 Can you name some things that you think or that others think are needed to feel accepted and included? Are they really needed? Do they cost money?
 What do you think of Sylvester McMonkey McBean – was he a help or a hindrance for the Sneetches? Is there a machine in our world like his?
 “The day they decided that Sneetches are Sneetches and no kind of Sneetch is the best on the beaches.” What happens?
 Write or draw an end to the story .
 Share the stories and pictures. List outcomes – joy, love, play, unity –
 Explain – “this is the experience of solidarity.
 As persons baptized in Christ Jesus, we too experience solidarity – all are included with no exceptions. The love of God for his creation and our being created in his likeness and image makes us one human family near and far, rich or poor, sick or healthy, in church and out of church. Every person is essential to making the human family complete. As Jesus' follower we can spread this good news of solidarity to all the world. How can we practice Solidarity?” List answers: i.e., sharing, listening, caring, inviting, speaking up for, praying for, forgiveness, kindness, friendship, smiles.
 Are there people you know or are you treated like the Sneetches without stars? Let's practice solidarity and see what happens.
 Prayer: Heavenly Father we thank you for all your creation and the wonders of all people and life around us. Help us to love all as brothers and sisters, as you love us and as Jesus has called us to be his brothers and sisters. Help us to know this joy in solidarity day by day. We ask that we may ... (then go around the circle for each person to pray for one action of solidarity that they would like to practice). In Jesus' name we pray. End with the Our Father.

...everyone must consider every neighbor without exception as another self, taking into account first of all their life and the means necessary to living it with dignity, so as not to imitate the rich man who had no concern for the poor man Lazarus (Luke 16:18-31). ...Furthermore, whatever is opposed to life itself, ...whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, ...as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society, but they do more to those who practice them than those who suffer from the injury. *Gaudium et Spes*