



Catholic Social Teaching *for Everyone*

SESSION SEVEN:
Solidarity

Opening Prayer:

Because We Are Yours

LOVING FATHER,
I did not know you
But I was yours.
And they do not know me
And I do not know them
But they are mine
And I am theirs.

Let no chasm, no river, no drought
or storm,
No war, no exodus, no border,
natural or constructed,
No device of man nor devil
Come between us
Or halt the love that burns within me,
The grace that flows from you.

continued

Opening Prayer *cont'd*:

Let me think on no man
unless I think joyful thoughts of brotherhood,
Let me think on no woman
unless I think tender thoughts of sisterhood,
Friend and stranger,
Ally and enemy,
Brothers,
Sisters.
They are mine
And I am theirs,
Because we are yours.
Amen.

CRS Solidarity Prayer

Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

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 in a shrinking world.”

USCCB/CRS



Art by Bro. Mickey McGrath, OSFS

CST 101

Solidarity




Solidarity

“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.”



Solidarity *cont'd*

A group of diverse people, including a man with a beard, a woman with long blonde hair, and a woman with curly hair, are huddled together in a circle outdoors. They are all wearing blue t-shirts and have their arms around each other, suggesting a sense of unity and solidarity. The background shows a grassy field with trees and a white table with orange cones, possibly at an outdoor event or camp.

“Solidarity highlights in a particular way the intrinsic social nature of the human person, equality of all in dignity and rights and the common path of individuals and peoples towards an ever more committed unity.”

Solidarity and Peace

“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.”

Solidarity and Peace *cont'd*

“In fact, the Church’s social doctrine places alongside the value of justice that of solidarity, in that it is the privileged way of peace.”

CSDC 203

Solidarity and Peace *cont'd*

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Matthew 5:9

“And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.”

James 3:18



Solidarity and Globalization

“In today’s world, . . . what reigns . . . is . . . globalized indifference, born of deep disillusionment concealed behind a deceptive illusion: thinking that we are all-powerful, while failing to realize that we are all in the same boat.”

Solidarity and Globalization *cont'd*



“The solidarity which binds all men together as members of a common family makes it impossible for wealthy nations to look with indifference upon hunger, misery, and poverty of other nations whose citizens are unable to enjoy even elementary rights.”

Mater et Magistra 157

Solidarity and Globalization *cont'd*

“Interdependence must be transformed into solidarity, based upon the principle that the goods of creation are meant for all. That which human industry produces through the processing of raw materials, with contribution of work, must serve equally for the good of all.”

Sollicitudo Rei Socialis 39

Solidarity and Love

“[In] building the ‘civilization of love,’ the immediate purpose of the Church’s social doctrine is to propose the principles and values that can sustain a society worthy of the human person.

Among these principles, solidarity includes all the others in a certain way. It represents ‘one of the fundamental principles of the Christian view of social and political organizations.’”

Solidarity and Love *cont'd*

“To love someone is to desire that person’s good and to take effective steps to secure it. . . .

There is the good that is linked to living in society: the common good. . . . To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity.”

Caritas in Veritate 7



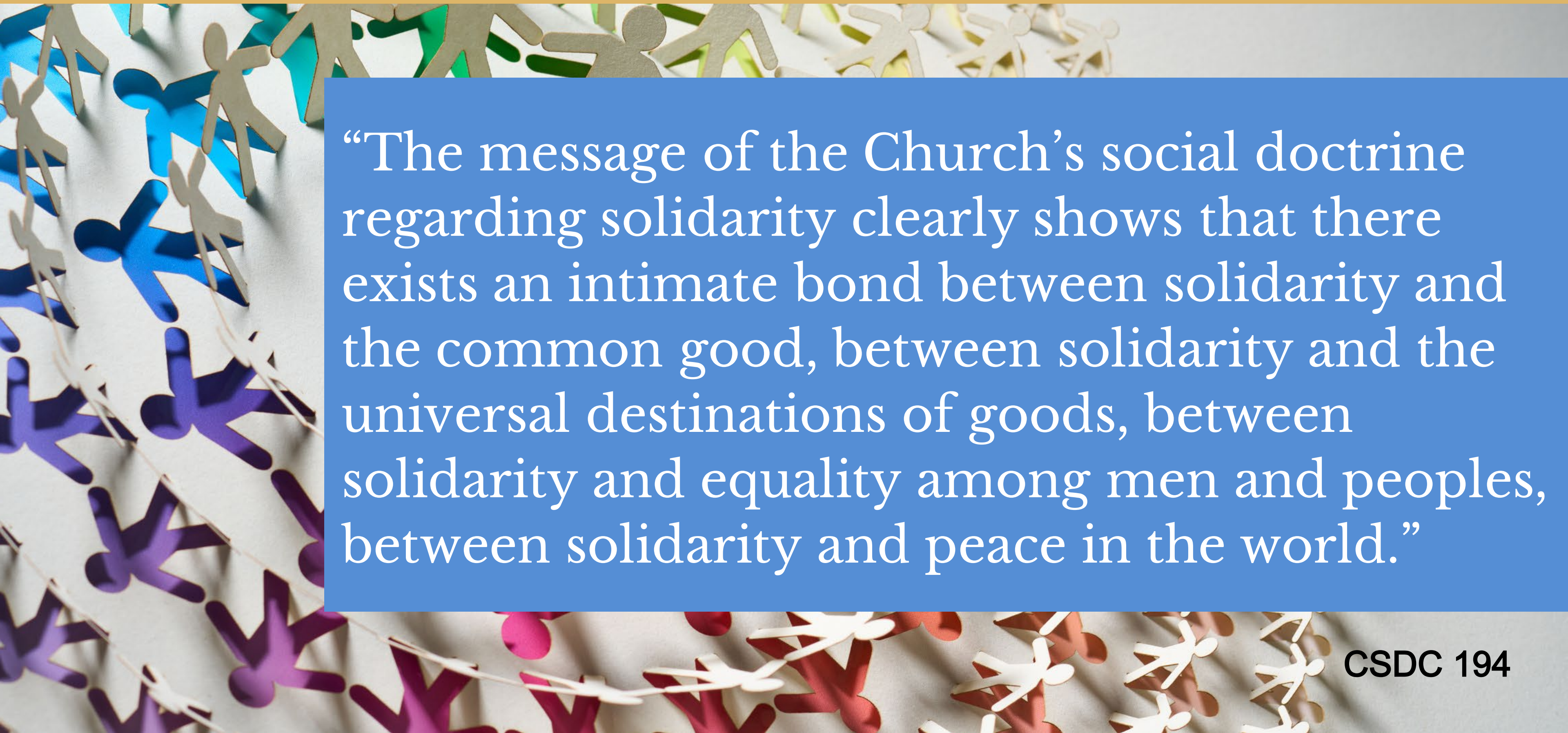
Solidarity and Common Good



“In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, the principle of the common good . . . becomes . . . a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters. . . . This option is in fact an ethical imperative essential for effectively attaining the common good.”

Laudato Si' 158

Solidarity and Common Good *cont'd*



“The message of the Church’s social doctrine regarding solidarity clearly shows that there exists an intimate bond between solidarity and the common good, between solidarity and the universal destinations of goods, between solidarity and equality among men and peoples, between solidarity and peace in the world.”

Solidarity and Racism



“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.”

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Solidarity and Racism



“Any theory or form whatsoever of racism and racial discrimination is morally unacceptable.”

Solidarity and Racism

“‘God shows no partiality’ (Acts 10:34), since all people have the same dignity as creatures made in his image and likeness. . . . ‘There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus’ (Gal 3:28). . . . This is the ultimate foundation of the radical equality and brotherhood among all people, regardless of their race, nation, sex, origin, culture, or class.”

Solidarity and Immigration

“Solidarity also includes the scriptural call to welcome the stranger among us — including immigrants seeking work — by ensuring that they have opportunities for a safe home, education for their children, and a decent life for their families and by ending the practice of separating families through deportation.” **USCCB**

Solidarity and Immigration *cont'd*

“Ideally, unnecessary migration ought to be avoided; this entails creating in countries of origin the conditions needed for a dignified life and integral development. Yet until substantial progress is made in achieving this goal, we are obliged to respect the right of all individuals to find a place that meets their basic needs and those of their families, and where they can find personal fulfilment. Our response to the arrival of migrating persons can be summarized by four words:

WELCOME, PROTECT, PROMOTE AND INTEGRATE.”

Solidarity and Immigration *cont'd*



“The Gospel mandate to ‘welcome the stranger’ requires Catholics to care for and stand with newcomers, authorized and unauthorized, including unaccompanied immigrant children, refugees and asylum-seekers, those unnecessarily detained, and victims of human trafficking.”

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Solidarity and Immigration *cont'd*

“Comprehensive reform is urgently necessary to fix a broken immigration system and should include a broad and fair legalization program with a path to citizenship; a work program with worker protections and just wages; family reunification policies; access to legal protections, which include due process procedures; refuge for those fleeing persecution and violence; and policies to address the root causes of migration.”

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Solidarity and Immigration *cont'd*

“The right and responsibility of nations to control their borders and to maintain the rule of law should be recognized but pursued in a just and humane manner. The detention of immigrants should be used to protect public safety and not for purposes of deterrence or punishment; alternatives to detention, including community-based programs, should be emphasized.”

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Solidarity and Criminal Justice

“Not only are we responsible for the safety and well-being of our family and our next-door neighbor, but Christian solidarity demands that we work for justice beyond our boundaries. **Christians are asked to see Jesus in the face of everyone**, including both victims and offenders. Through the lens of solidarity, those who commit crimes and are hurt by crime are not issues or problems; *they are sisters and brothers, members of one human family*. Solidarity calls us to insist on responsibility and seek alternatives that do not simply punish, but rehabilitate, heal, and restore.”

Solidarity in Action

“Solidarity must be seen above all in its value as a moral virtue that determines the order of institutions.

On the basis of this principle, the ‘structures of sin’ . . . must be purified and transformed into structures of solidarity through the creation of appropriate modification of laws, market regulations and juridical systems.”

Solidarity in Action

“Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community. . . . It also means combating the structural causes of poverty, inequality, lack of work, land and housing, the denial of social and labor rights. It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of money.”

Questions for Reflection *and Discussion*

Solidarity

“The Church’s social doctrine thus speaks of the need for the virtue of solidarity. Authentic solidarity is not just about offering help to others; it is a matter of justice; it requires a radical change in our thinking that looks to the good of the community, defends the right to life for all, and promotes a just sharing of the earth’s goods.”

(Vatican summary of Pope Francis’s 2020 “Healing the World” Catechesis)

Regarding this quote, do you think our culture and community are succeeding or failing on solidarity?

Solidarity

“Solidarity arises precisely when we decide not to remain indifferent to what happens to our neighbor but instead to transform unavoidable bonds — economic, cultural and technological — into paths of sharing, cooperation and mutual care, embracing the idea of ‘thinking and acting in terms of community.’”

(Magnifica Humanitas 74, Pope Leo XIV, 15 May 2026)

How do you understand this quote? Does it have implications for how you act on a day -to-day basis?

Take Action



Examination of Conscience

(USCCB)

- Does the way I spend my time reflect a genuine concern for others?
- Is solidarity incorporated into my prayers and spirituality? Do I lift up vulnerable people throughout the world in my prayer, or is it reserved for only personal concerns?
- Am I attentive only to my local neighbors or also those across the globe?
- Do I see all members of the human family as my brothers and sisters?



Taking Action — Welcome the Stranger

- Current/Ongoing**
 - Through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA), sponsored an Afghan family since April 2025; preparing to do same for another refugee family.
 - Connected several SJN parishioners with Catholic Charities - Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) to donate furniture
 - Currently the greatest need with MRS is in finding housing for arriving families and job mentoring and coaching for clients (individual volunteers)
 - Other special opportunities (diaper deliveries, workshops)
 - Make ministry aware of various opportunities throughout parish and diocese
- Prior**
 - With CCDA/MRS, furnished apartment for newly arrived family
 - Political action with Congregation Action Network to advocate for a pathway to citizenship for all immigrants (Dreamers, TPS holders, Essential workers)
 - Fast for freedom, communication with members of Congress, demonstrations
 - Opportunities to accompany immigrants through Centreville Immigration Forum
 - Vaccination appointments, medical appointments, and school registrations

Taking Action — Kairos Prison Ministry

- Mission is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men and women to become loving and productive citizens of their communities.



- Ecumenical teams of lay volunteers conduct 4-day retreats and follow-up gatherings inside state prisons.
- More volunteers are needed to join the retreat teams, as well as many others to help with prayers, cookies, posters, placemats, and financial support.

Closing Prayer:

USCCB Prayer for Solidarity

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-LIVING GOD,
empower your one human family to join hands
on our journey of faith.

Send us your spirit of hope,
so that we may work
to alleviate human suffering
and foster charity and justice
in our world.

Amen.

Thank you for your time tonight.

*We look forward to seeing you next
Wednesday!*

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