



CALLED TO ACTION

Session 7: Solidarity

living the Faith
celebrating Prayer
promoting Justice
ready to Serve

Song – Companions on the Journey – Carey Landry

Refrain

We are companions on the journey,
breaking bread and sharing life;
and in the love we bear is the hope we share
for we believe in the love of our God,
we believe in the love of our God.

No longer strangers to each other,
no longer strangers in God's house;
we are fed and we are nourished
by the strength of those who care,
by the strength of those who care.

We have been gifted with each other,
and we are called by the Word of the Lord:
to act with justice, to love tenderly,
and to walk humbly with our God,
to walk humbly with our God.

Video Link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDIVWHB8mC0>

Song – Voices of Challenge David Haas

Refrain:

Call us to hear the voices that challenge
Deep in the hearts of all people!
By serving your world as lovers and dreamers
We become voices that challenge!
For we are the voice of God!

Voices that challenge:

The children who long to be heard and respected!
The lowly and broken destroyed by oppression!
The old and the fearful who hope for a new day!

Voices that challenge:

The lives and the cries of the poor and the silenced!
The young ones who dream of a world free of hatred!
The sick and the dying who cry for compassion!

Voices that challenge:

The ones who seek peace by their witness and courage!
The women who suffer the pain of injustice!
The people with AIDS and those plagued with addiction!
The prophets and heroes who call us to question!
The healers who teach us forgiveness and mercy!
The victims of violent abuse and aggression!
The Christ who gave his life that we might live!

Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dmPt-DdNhE&feature=youtu.be>

Prayers

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
He has no hands on earth, but yours,
He has no feet on earth but yours.
It is your eyes through which
His compassion is to look out upon the
world.

It is your feet with which
He is to go about doing good.
It is your hands with which
He is to bless people now.

Attributed to Teresa of Avila

Like fingers on a hand

We are all different and unique.
We are all of equal value.
We are all created to work together.
And although we appear separate,
we are all linked to – and a part of – each
other.

From: One Human Family



Called to Action: Written by The Logos Project on behalf of Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry enabling young people to live their faith.

LOGOS
Marist Youth Development

Scripture – If one suffers, all suffers...

(1 Corinthians 12:14-26)

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Church Teaching

Pope Benedict XVI's Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, Paragraph 7

To love someone is to desire that person's good and to take effective steps to secure it. Besides the good of the individual, there is a good that is linked to living in society: the common good. It is the good of "all of us", made up of individuals, families and intermediate groups who together constitute society. It is a good that is sought not for its own sake, but for the people who belong to the social community and who can only really and effectively pursue their good within it. To desire the *common good* and strive towards it *is a requirement of justice and charity* [...] The more we strive to secure a common good corresponding to the real needs of our neighbours, the more effectively we love them.

Ice-Breaker - Add a Word

Gather the group in a circle and tell them that the activity that are about to do requires individual contribution in order for the team to be successful. Ask the group to construct a sentence based on the topic that the leader will announce. Example of topics can be: bible passage, a sentence from a song, title of a movie and so on.

The first person in the group will say one word, for example 'The'. Second person then says the first word and adds a word of their choice; and so on. In the end you should have a complete sentence that is relevant to the topic.

At the conclusion of the activity, start a discussion about the feeling they had when they finally constructed a sentence. Ask them what had to happen in order to succeed?

Having a single goal (i.e. constructing a sentence), encourage us all to contribute in any way we can for the group to succeed. Solidarity means many people coming together for a purpose that benefits all and not just the few.



Activity 1 - What's Our Worth?

Background:

We are one human family, regardless of our cultural, racial, ethnic, economic and religious differences. In a world that is constantly getting smaller because of people's movement from one country to another, the Catholic Church reinforces the significance of helping one another, that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. The Church teaching on Solidarity states that part of our faith is to commit ourselves to the common good of all people and we have the responsibility to look after one another.

Activity:

If your group has more than ten participants, divide the group into two where there are at least five in each group. If the whole group has less than ten members, the activity can be done in one group. Give each group a piece of paper and a pen. Get the group to choose one person as a model. The chosen model will stand in front of the group while the rest estimate the monetary cost of the model's clothing and accessories. This includes their pants, shoes, shirt, jewellery, and so on. (Do not include the contents of bags, purses or wallets). Each group will add up the total amounts of the model's clothing and accessories.

Step 1: Ask the groups to report their total dollar amount.

Step 2: Get the group to divide their amount by 40 (E.g. If the total amount is \$320 and divide it by 40, it will be 8). The group will then report it to the large group. Explain that in some third world countries, educating a child for one year will cost \$40.

Discussion questions:

Ask the participants what they think this activity has to do with the Church's teaching on Solidarity?

Key: Part of our responsibility of helping others is to become aware of our resources and appreciate the small things like proper clothing and education.

Ask the group how far does helping others extend to? Just inside our communities, our own country or overseas?

Key: We are called to help everyone- locally and globally.

Final Reflection:

As a final reflection, get the group to sit in a circle and complete the following statements:

I now know...

I still wonder about...

I understand...



Activity 2 – Why live simply?

Background:

The Church teaching on Solidarity states that part of our faith is to commit ourselves to the common good of all people. Each of us as individuals and as members of a community have a responsibility to look after others. The gap between the wealth of developed countries and poverty in developing countries is growing larger.

Activity:

Watch the video **Louder than words: Why live simply?** (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-M5gxXzPYU&list=PL94F94E0DE68A77EB>) together as a group. Ask participants to take note of the different issues that young people express concern about in the video clip. After watching the video invite the young people to fold an A3 piece of paper in half. On the left side ask them to write the concerns talked about in the video and on the right hand side of the paper invite them to write the concerns that they have about their own community and globally.

Discussion questions:

Why live simply?

Key: Part of our responsibility of helping others is to use resources prudently and not to waste precious resources.

What is the difference between solidarity and compassion?

Key: Often we act with compassion, such as donating groceries to a food bank. Catholic social teaching calls us to act in solidarity with those experiencing difficulties. Solidarity means we seek to find the cause of the problem. For example, why is it that there are people who don't have enough food in a developed country such as New Zealand? Take another look at the issues that you are concerned about locally. What would be the difference between acting with compassion and acting in solidarity for each issue identified?

What is one issue where you could make a positive contribution either as individuals or as a group?

Key: This is a call to action. We are looking for one specific and achievable goal as the idea.

Final Reflection:

As a final reflection, get the group to sit in pairs and each share one issue with the other that they are really concerned about.

Now together, write one or two prayers that speak to the issues shared. Each prayer can just be one or two sentences. Participants may write one prayer that covers two issues or two separate prayers.

When all the prayers are written gather round a lit candle and invite participants to share their prayers with the larger group.

Conclude the session with a prayer that complements the prayers of the participants eg:

Loving God, we ask you to hear all our prayers. We ask that you be with us, guiding and supporting us as we act in solidarity with ...

