



“When I speak of solidarity I mean much more than the promotion of philanthropic works or financial assistance to help those who lose out. Because solidarity is not the sharing of crumbs from the table, but to make space at the table for everyone.”

Pope Francis, On Fraternity and Social Friendship

“We are all really responsible for all” – all of us.

If we truly believe that we are all sisters and brothers of one another, made in God’s image and likeness, then seeking the good of one another cannot be ignored. Wherever we are. Whatever our circumstances. We are all responsible for one another, those close by, and those far away. All of our actions have consequences locally and globally.

Solidarity is not just feeling sorry for those who suffer. It is a commitment to action. It is love in action.

Flowing from solidarity is the promotion of peace. If we are to live in solidarity with one another we must want the peace of all. Pope Francis warns us that “until exclusion and inequality in society and between peoples are reversed, it will be impossible to eliminate violence”.

Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 59



SEE

When Pope Francis visited the Holy Land in May 2014, one of the abiding images was the embrace between the Pope and his friends – a Jew and a Muslim. This was solidarity in action. Respect for one another as fellow human beings. Standing together in a place of such tension amongst the three religions represented. Yet it was a sign of unity and a call for peace.

- Where do you see examples of genuine solidarity in your own community?
- When is it hard for us to commit to real solidarity, to work for the good of others? Why?

Peace is not just the absence of conflict. It is the way we treat one another. It is the respect we afford to our fellow human beings. It is enabling all people to flourish and live their lives to the full.

“[Solidarity] is not a feeling of vague compassion... it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself... to the good of all and of each individual because we are all really responsible for all.”

St John Paul II, On Social Concern, 38

- Where do you see ‘wars’ in your own communities? In your own lives?

JUDGE

“ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. *John 14:27*”

- What is your own understanding of 'peace'?
- What do you think are the qualities of Christ's peace?



“ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. *Isaiah 2:4*”

Isaiah 2:4

Catholic social teaching tells us that peace isn't just the absence of war. Inequality leads to conflict. The way we treat one another can lead to conflict. Yet, if we truly hold to human dignity, if we truly look for Christ in others, we will strive to realise the unity that is in Christ. It is in this building of solidarity that we journey towards peace. We are connected and called to care for one another, promoting unity and peace throughout God's human family.

- When have you known the peace of Christ?
- Who do you know that needs to experience the peace of Christ today?

ACT

Let us say to the Lord:

“Lord, I am angry with this person, with that person. I pray to you for him and for her.”

To pray for a person with whom I am irritated is a beautiful step forward in love,
and an act of evangelisation.

Let us do it today!

Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the ideal of fraternal love!

Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, 101

- In what ways do you need to seek peace in your own life, your family? Who do you need to pray for?
- Who is there within your family, friends, colleagues, who you need to be reconciled with?

There is the sense of oneness in Christ, being connected in love with every other human person. How do we live out love, caritas, in our lives?

- Who in our parish or local community do we need to reach out to, to build stronger relationships with?
- How can we invite others to join us in our commitment to promote solidarity in our society?

“ Sowing peace all around us: that is holiness”.

Pope Francis, On the Call to Holiness, 89

Where is there conflict in the world, your community, your family, your heart?

Where have you caused or encouraged conflict?

How will you be a peacemaker?

SEE

JUDGE

ACT