



NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR  
CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY



# RESOUND

A large, white, sans-serif word 'RESOUND' is centered in front of a blue soundwave graphic. The soundwave consists of numerous vertical bars of varying heights, creating a pattern that suggests sound waves or a digital signal.

*solidarity  
day of service*

EVERY ACT OF KINDNESS,  
GENEROSITY OR LOVE  
ECHOES FAR BEYOND OUR  
IMAGINATIONS



# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

## OVERVIEW

"The community of believers was of one heart and 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. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to his need."

Acts 4:32-35

This day of service is all about who we are responsible for, who we should care for and what God asks of us as missionary disciples. We have experienced so much in the last year - protests, shootings, racial tension, intolerance for inequity, misogyny, hatred, ignorance, emerging leaders, hope, fear and the need for a new path ahead.

This day is all about questions - going further into Scripture and social teaching, finding truth, purpose, passion and next steps for our communities.

Each person is called to be a light for the world in these troubled times.

# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

## GETTING READY TO FOCUS ON SOLIDARITY

The day is almost here - here are a few tips on how to get things ready so you can enjoy the experience without stress.

- Have a welcome area upon arrival. Be sure to welcome everyone who comes, follow mask mandates and safe distance policies, have hand sanitizer here and everywhere. Make a sign to put out front, and in the space they gather.
- Have schedule of the day printed out or on a screen, white board or easel.
- Have music playing!
- Have a community builder or icebreaker game ready.
- Have sound system if needed.
- Have breakfast or snack food ready (will you need ice and coolers?)
- Have your high energy folks buzzing around helping people feel welcome and included.
- Invite some participants ahead to act out the Good Samaritan story as it's being read or to create a modern day version of the account.
- Newsprint, markers, small pieces of craft paper, pens.



# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

AHEAD OF THE DAY

Ideas specifically for Solidarity and Common Good:  
Focus on important issues we face and the service day will RESOUND! It will make an impact on how we understand issues that the world is facing and what we can do to make sure people are seen and heard in our own homes and neighborhoods.

- For environment in the gathering space, have signs posted - words that might be seen at a protest or peace rally, showing lives that matter.
- Choose worksites that will stretch the group and help them see disparity in their community - often by who is missing, what's not right in front of them.
- Serve food that is accessible to all, made with simple ingredients, nothing fancy (see suggestions in the hospitality resources).
- Use compostable dishes for food that is served, or try things that don't need silverware or individual condiments.
- Give participants a copy of *Fratelli Tutti* or a bracelet or wrist band that is a reminder of the day and of who belongs.
- The day is not about politics or policies, but about the dignity of the person, created in God's image and likeness. It's about helping us go further in our understanding and ability to navigate the tensions today.



# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

## PRAYER AND MUSIC

Music has a way of making events and activities memorable on a million different levels. We remember where we were when we first hear a song, or understand the lyrics. So much has been written about the earth, both secular and sacred. It's something all humankind cares about. Our country has a rich history of music that marks occasions, movements happenings and tensions. It's a way to make sense of what we are experiencing as a nation.

### Solidarity Morning Music

- 4:14 Never Gonna Break My Faith, by Brian Adams
- 5:41 All Are Welcome, by Jesse Manibusan
- 3:54 Many and One, by Steve Angrisano
- 3:12 A Rightful Place, by Steve Angrisano
- 3:30 Queremos Entrar, by Vince Lujan

### Solidarity Evening Music

- 3:51 Refuge, by Matt Maher
- 4:10 Para Amar Como Tu, by Santiago Fernandez, J. Manibusan
- 4:15 Love Your Neighbor, by Todd Agnew
- 4:29 Falling Into You, by Jesse Manibusan
- 3:30 Queremos Entrar, by Jesus Team A

Talk with your music team at the parish to see if they have resources for you, ways to download and access the music through Song Select, CCLI, OCP or other organizations. You can also download from iTunes, YouTube, Spotify or other subscription service.



# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

## Morning Session

Gathering Song: "Never Gonna Break My Faith" playing as the group settles in.

*Good Morning everyone! What a great day to be together and take time to do some good work in our community. Our theme today is solidarity - working toward a common good. It's so easy to say those words, but really tough to live them. But we have a day together, the Scriptures to surround us and our hearts to guide us. Let's begin with a prayer, as we often do.*

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Lord, as you know, our world is in a bit of turmoil right now with the pandemic, racism, hunger, poverty, brutality, shootings nearly every day. We ask you to walk with us - to teach us how to live as faithful disciples in this time. We offer you this day and may we bring hope to those we serve. We pray this in Your name, Amen.*

*It's good that we set the stage for our work today - so we have a few things about our Catholic perspective that might help us out.*



# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

Talking points - say this or create your own using these as ideas:

- You have all done service, some of you more than others. The focus for today's service is on the "why" of helping others. There are probably lots of reasons why you are here today, giving up your time to do service for those who are most in need, most vulnerable, most hurting in our community. Share with someone sitting near you what your reason is for serving today.
- In the end, it comes down to who we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, want to help. Whose lives matter to us? That is a question which various groups have raised in our country over the past few years. We've been challenged to ask ourselves if we think Black lives matter, if LGBTQ lives matter, if immigrants' lives matter, etc. We have been asked to think about who is getting access to the vaccines protecting us from the COVID 19 virus, and who isn't. Do we care about others getting protection as long as we and those we love get the shot? Do we worry about entire countries not having access to the vaccine? Do we ask what's the best solution for ALL of God's people, not just for us? Another way of putting it is asking if we care about the common good more than our own personal needs and wants. Do ALL lives matter to us?
- In all honesty, whose lives really do matter to us?
- The Word of God asks the question about who matters a bit differently. As far back as the Book of Genesis, we are challenged to ponder: "Who is my neighbor?" Who is worth my attention, my help, my service? Jesus answers the question very directly when he tells the scholar the story of the Good Samaritan.



# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

If possible, have a group ready ahead of time to act out the Gospel story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). If that isn't possible, proclaim the Word boldly and with passion!

"There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"

He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."



# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

## Response/Discussion of “Who is my neighbor?”

- It is so easy to care about ourselves and our immediate circle of family and friends. But Jesus wants us to stretch the boundaries of those we care about to include all those in need.
- Pope Francis, on April 7th this year (2021), told a general audience that “In the Church there is no grief that is borne in solitude, there are no tears shed in oblivion, because everyone breathes and participates in one common grace.” We as Catholics believe that it is our moral responsibility to care for the common good - seeking what is good for everyone, not just for ourselves.
- In reflecting on the story of the Good Samaritan in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti (On Fraternity and Social Friendship)*, Pope Francis invites us to answer these questions: “Which of these characters do you identify with? Which of these characters do you resemble?” He also challenges us to think of the word *neighbor* differently, as Jesus did.

After several minutes, have each group share its definition with the whole community. Give each small group a sheet of newsprint and markers. Invite participants to engage in a conversation on which person they most identify with in the Good Samaritan story. Then have them come up with a list of people who are definitely their neighbors (e.g., people who live next door to us), and people they would consider definitely not their neighbors.



# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

After listing both of these categories, invite each group to come up with a definition of neighbor from the perspective of Jesus, one they can take with them into their service today. Ask them to write the definition on the sheet of newsprint.

Connect the work about to be done today with the common good.  
(3 minutes)

Send Forth (Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti*) (2 minutes)

Pope Francis offers us a challenge for this day of service. Listen to his words in *Fratelli Tutti, On Fraternity and Social Friendship*.

*"Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all." (FT, 8)*

As you serve others today, your challenge is to start imagining your dream for our one human family.

- How are you connected to those you meet?
- And how are you connected to other people both here and across the globe?
- What is your dream for them?

Write this down today, record it on your phone or make a Tik Tok video to share.



# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

## Evening Session

Have music playing as you eat dinner, share snacks and unwind after the worksites. A song we suggest is *Refuge*, by Matt Maher

### Evening Discussion: Keep Dreaming

Invite everyone to the gathering space and then lead a little discussion from the points below.

### Small Work Group Debrief (10 minutes)

- What work did you do today?
- How do you think it went?
- Who was neighbor to you?
- For whom were you neighbor?
- Whose lives mattered to you?

Remind participants of the quote from Pope Francis with which you sent them out to serve this morning:

*"Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all." (FT, 8)*



# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

Invite them to do some dreaming with the Holy Father. Ask them to imagine the following and share their ideas with their small group.

- What do you think the dreams and hopes are of those you served today? What are your dreams for them?
- What do you think the lives of these people would be like if everyone in the community put the common good as their first priority?
- What can “good Samaritans” do to continue to help these people and other vulnerable persons in our community?
- Come up with a one-minute Public Service Announcement aimed at inspiring your local community to help make the dreams come true by making choices based on the common good.

Give 20 minutes for discussion, then ask each group to share its PSA. (25 minutes total)

Invite each person and/or family to make a commitment to what they will do to help realize the dreams of those in need. (10 minutes)

- What are they willing to give up or share for the sake of the community - beginning with themselves, their family, their sphere of friends and co-workers, their country, and the global community? What are they willing to do?

Ask them to write their commitment and take it with them when they leave this evening. After they've done so, have them share one thing they've committed to doing with someone not in their family or small group.

Affirm the community for the good work done today to promote the common good. Then move to prayer.



# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

## Concluding Prayer - Blessing of Commitments

Use the prayer inspired by Pope Francis' *Fratelli Tutti*, "Help Us to Love Like the Good Samaritan"

Closing Song: Falling Into You, by Jesse Manibusan; Queremos Entrar, by Vince Lujan

*We pray, In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Lord Jesus, You teach us in your parable that there are two kinds of people - those who bend down to help and those who look the other way. Which kind of people will we be? We say, "Yes, Lord, I will love you and love my neighbor." But then we ask: The migrant... is she my neighbor? Those in poverty... are they my neighbors? Victims of war across the world... are they neighbors? One who faces racism... is he my neighbor? Those disabled or elderly... are they my neighbors? You remind us: Yes. All of us are neighbors. Show us how to love, Lord. May we open our eyes. May we emerge from our comfortable isolation. May we build a world of compassion and dignity. Lord Jesus, who was neighbor to all, help us to persevere in love. Help us to restore dignity to the suffering. Help us to build a society based not on exclusion, but on community. Amen.*

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# SOLIDARITY AND COMMON GOOD

*Please stand and raise up your commitment sheets. Hold them up so we can see them around the room. Each of us has learned so much, served well and made a commitment to continue work toward solidarity today. These papers you hold up - they are a sign of community, faith and hope. May you walk ahead with faith, hope and trust. May you find your voice and use it to uplift others and work for the common good. May you remember that you are not alone - you carry with you the angels, saints, family, friends and a community that cares.*

*You may stash those sheets in your pocket for now. Keep them someplace you will see it often and remember our day together.*

*(If you have a bracelet or copies of *Fratelli Tutti* or another gift, now would be a great time to have them come forward to receive it.)*

*Thank you all for being a part of today - it's been a beautiful, hard, amazing day. As you head home, let's hold each other in prayer and our community too. May all we experienced continue to teach us. May all we felt continue to disturb and challenge us. May all we celebrated be a reason to continue the good work done today, Amen! Our day is ended! Blessings on your travel home.*

*As people leave, invite them to take home left over food, projects, to help clean up if they like and to take home any supplies or environment items you won't be needing. Be sure to clean up, lock up and thank all your volunteers too. If you have time in the next day or two, send thank you notes to the participants and worksites.*