

Session E

Theme: Solidarity

Scripture Reading & Discussion Questions



A Reading from Luke 10:25-37:

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."

Discussion Questions:

- 1) In the context of our contemporary situation, how do you think Jesus might re-cast his parable if he were telling it today?
- 2) Where do you feel the greatest challenge: reaching out to your neighbor who is near at hand or to the ones who are around the globe? Why?

Faithful Citizenship Reading & Discussion Questions

A reading from *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States*:

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 and requires us to eradicate racism and address the extreme poverty and disease plaguing so much of the world. Solidarity also includes the Scriptural call to welcome the stranger among us—including immigrants seeking work, a safe home, education for their children, and a decent life for their

families. In light of the Gospel's invitation to be peacemakers, our commitment to solidarity with our neighbors—at home and abroad—also demands that we promote peace and pursue justice in a world marred by terrible violence and conflict. Decisions on the use of force should be guided by traditional moral criteria and undertaken only as a last resort. As Pope Paul VI taught: "If you want peace, work for justice" (*World Day of Peace Message*, January 1, 1972) (no. 53).

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Have there been any particular experiences in your life that have helped you to understand and experience the reality of solidarity with those whom you do not know personally?
- 2) How can you practice solidarity in your daily life?
- 3) Once your vision of "sister & brother" has become global in scope, how do you personally avoid feeling overwhelmed by the thought of being in solidarity with so many who are in need of so much?
- 4) How does the principle of solidarity relate to your role as a citizen?
- 5) How do you think your parish community might best go about the task of building a sense of solidarity among its members?