



“ [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, *Sollicitudo rei socialis*



If we truly believe that we are all sisters and brothers of one another, made in God's image and likeness as seen in the guideline of human dignity, then seeking the good of one another cannot be ignored. Solidarity is not just feeling sorry for those who suffer. It is a commitment to action. It is love in action.

“We are all really responsible for all” – all of us. Wherever we are. Whatever our age. 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. From how we treat people we meet in the street, to the coffee we buy in the supermarket.

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.”

(The Joy of the Gospel, 59)

“ Indeed, it is individualism, the opposite of solidarity, which is the cause of so much violence

The Joy of the Gospel, 99

“ Peace requires all of us to strive for peace in our own lives, and in our local relationships

The Joy of the Gospel, 99



It looked like any other bin, but was taller, with a big padlock on it, and made out of metal. It sat in the church entrance for a month. Mike had heard about it. Like most of the rest of his friends, it was about safety, but more about status. He was sure none of his family knew, nor his teachers – I mean, he's at a good, Catholic school. But it was important to carry a knife. You never knew when someone might turn on you. Not that he ever thought he'd use it. Although that's probably what Sophie thought. She was drunk. She was angry. When she started lashing out with the knife there was nothing anyone could say to calm her down. Thankfully, it was only superficial damage she did to Nicola, but the amount of blood and pain it caused was huge.

Mike knew what the bin was for. He didn't need to carry a knife. He didn't want to. He managed to sneak it into the knife bin as part of the amnesty in the local community, and felt a sense of peace.

“ 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*

REFLECTION



Using the model from Cardinal Cardijn, reflect on where solidarity and promoting peace is not being upheld locally and globally, what our faith calls us to do about it, and what actions we may be able to take to enable all people to flourish.



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

SEE

Where have you caused or encouraged conflict?

JUDGE

How will you be a peacemaker?

ACT



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St John Paul II, Sollicitudo rei socialis



It's worth repeating this quotation from St John Paul II as it sums up the principle so well. As sisters and brothers of one another, created by God, we have a bond to all people. It is lived out in wanting peace among all peoples.

For more background visit : catholicsocialteaching.org.uk



Who is there within your family, friends, colleagues, community who you need to be reconciled with?

Make an effort this week to bring peace to that relationship, even if it's hard to do.



ACTION

GET INVOLVED!

Pax Christi and their members take responsibility to promote peace, reconciliation, and non-violence in their own lives and their world paxchristi.org.uk

Get involved in [Million Minutes](http://millionminutes.org), promoting solidarity amongst young people and across generations millionminutes.org

Help make our streets safer. Get involved in [CitySafe](http://citysafe.org.uk) and create a safe haven for young people in your community citysafe.org.uk

[One World Week](http://oneworldweek.org) – an annual opportunity to join a worldwide movement for people taking action for justice locally and globally oneworldweek.org

PARISH PLAN

Think about gathering a few times to look together at how we can respond to the needs of our local community in the light of what we're learning in Love in Action.

Resources and ideas are available to help identify the needs of the community and plan how to respond.

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