

**CATHOLIC
SOCIAL TEACHING FOCUS:
GLOBAL SOLIDARITY**

Jesus tells us to love our neighbors, even though they may be different from us. That means those neighbors who live next door and those who live on the other side of the planet. Jesus reminds us that we are all part of God's great family.

CENTRO LATINO'S STORY

Centro Latino, a Catholic Charities-supported nonprofit, works with the Latino community in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky. Centro Latino distributes food and clothing, and provides educational opportunities. But Centro Latino also recognizes the importance of community and stability.

"We need each other," says Ursuline Sister Lee Kirchner, who volunteers at Centro's monthly women's meetings, offering reflections for gatherings of more than 100 women. "That's what we're trying to do: build a community among ourselves."

Katalina has attended the meetings for 3 years. The community has supported her in learning English and inspired her to give back. She and other women volunteer at Centro Latino's food distribution center, assist in their local parishes and work with their peers in the women's meetings. Shelby County is better because of the work these women do.

"When I first started leading these reflections, many women hardly said anything," Sister Lee recalls. "Now, so many have opened up with the most beautiful observations, with their desires to improve—not just themselves, but their community."

For Centro Latino, this is the kind of work that has the most lasting impact.



Photo by Sister Pat Reno, OP for CRS

FACTS TO CONSIDER

25% of your gifts to CRS Rice Bowl help organizations in your local community.

That means supporting the important work of organizations like Centro Latino.

For downloadable photos, visit crsricebowl.org/photos

PURPOSE

To help young people understand the Catholic social teaching, or CST, principle Global Solidarity by learning about the Catholic Charities' Centro Latino program in Louisville, Kentucky, and to challenge young people to practice solidarity this Lent.

CST PRINCIPLE: GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

Jesus tells us to love our neighbors, even though they may be different from us. That means those neighbors who live next door and those who live on the other side of the planet. Jesus reminds us that we are all part of God's great family.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Opening and Closing Prayers
 - *The Tears of Solidarity*
 - *Break Open the Tomb*
- *The Human Knot* icebreaker handout
- *When Someone Claps Twice* handout for facilitator
- *Telling the Story of Hope: Louisville* handout cut into slips of paper and shuffled well
- *Telling the Story of Hope: Louisville* handout for facilitator
- Large bag of candy in a basket
- *Story of Hope: Louisville*
- *Index Card Review* handout for facilitator
- 5 index cards per participant
- Roll of masking tape or painter's tape
- 1 large piece of paper with the word "Solidarity" written on it (as large as possible)
- Markers

OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

The Tears of Solidarity

GAME (10 MINUTES)

- *The Human Knot*
- Use as an icebreaker.

OPENING ACTIVITY (10-15 MINUTES)

- *When Someone Claps Twice*
- Randomly distribute the slips of paper you cut from the handout *Telling the Story of Hope: Louisville*, and invite participants to tell the story of Sister Lee and the women's meetings.

DISCUSSION (20 MINUTES)

- *Index Card Review*
- An activity to discuss the *Story of Hope: Louisville* and the Catholic social teaching principle Global Solidarity.

SUMMARY (1 MINUTE)

- The Archdiocese of Louisville's Centro Latino program provides services like English classes, computer classes and emergency assistance. But one of its most effective programs is its monthly women's group. This is a place where many women can talk and feel listened to, a place where they can form meaningful community. And it is a place that encourages members to give back—to the center, their local parishes and the larger Louisville community.
- Recognizing that one of the most important aspects of solidarity is to respectfully and fully listen to what others have to say, what can you do to improve your listening skills this Lent? How can you hear the voice of the poor in your community?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

Break Open the Tomb

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Go to a local nursing home or senior center with your family and visit with some of the residents. Ask them a few questions—you can ask them about any photos or cards they have displayed—and then simply listen or be present to them while playing a game of cards or a board game.



Photo by Keern Kasmak for CRS

God of compassion,

Pope Francis challenges us to learn how to cry, to brave that pain, and so enter into true solidarity with your people.

For those who face hunger, for those who face war, for those who face exploitation, for those who face displacement, I stand in solidarity.

For those who face unjust discrimination, for those who face indifference, for those who face a lack of opportunity, for those who face a lack of health care, I stand in solidarity.

But in truth, I stand a little reluctantly.

And I stand a little far off; detached and apart from the great human drama, lingering in the orchestra, even as you call me to the center stage.

Lord, help me to look again at what has been done to your people, to their lives and to their dignity, so that slowly, and then more strongly, I will allow myself to cry.

For it is only in those tears that we truly become one.

My trepidations fall away and I step forward and stand anew.

Teach me to cry.

Amen

PREPARATION

- Ask participants to form groups of 4-6, and stand in a circle shoulder-to-shoulder.
- Have everyone reach across the circle and grab the hands of two different people—but not the hand of a person on either side of them.
- The knot is now formed.

PROCESSING

Point out that everyone is connected—and that what happened to one person affected everyone.

INSTRUCTIONS

- The object is for the group to untangle without letting go of each other's hands.
- Participants can step or climb over the hands, or crawl under the hands.
- Sometimes when the knot is untangled, a person may be facing outside the circle.



Photo by David Snyder/CBS

MATERIALS

- A Copy of *Telling the Story of Hope: Louisville* handout, cut into slips of paper and shuffled well
- Make one copy of the *Telling the Story of Hope: Louisville* handout for the facilitator
- Large bag of candy in a basket

INSTRUCTIONS

- Distribute all the slips of paper. If there are more slips of paper than participants, give two to some participants. If there are more participants than slips of paper, recruit the extra participants to help you observe the group.
- Tell participants not to tell anyone what is on their slip of paper—and ask them not to show their paper to anyone.
- Explain that each slip of paper begins with a clue and an action. The clue will tell them when they should perform their action. Their action is then a clue for the next person.
- If anyone completes their action out of sequence or fails to do their action on time, the whole process will start over again.
- Explain to the group that you are working toward a common goal—in this case, receiving a piece of candy. The group will probably not understand this exercise right away.
- The activity begins when the leader claps twice.

Note to Leader

It typically takes several tries before the group can successfully complete the action in sequence.

It is important that you are not lenient with time lapses or out-of-sequence actions. Ask the group to begin again—even if someone only begins their action and then stops, only completes it partially or pauses between actions.

PROCESSING

- How dependent were you on others to reach the goal?
- How important was it that you paid attention and were observant?
- What made the process difficult? What made it fun?

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WHEN SOMEONE **CLAPS TWICE**, READ: “Centro Latino, a Catholic Charities-supported nonprofit, works alongside the Latino population in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “**CENTRO LATINO, A CATHOLIC CHARITIES-SUPPORTED NONPROFIT, WORKS ALONGSIDE THE LATINO POPULATION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY,**” YOU READ: “That work includes what you may expect: distributing food and clothing, and providing educational opportunities.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “**THAT WORK INCLUDES WHAT YOU MAY EXPECT: DISTRIBUTING FOOD AND CLOTHING, AND PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION,**” YOU READ: “But Centro Latino also recognizes the importance of community—and stability.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “**BUT CENTRO LATINO ALSO RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY—AND STABILITY,**” YOU READ: ““We need each other,” says Ursuline Sister Lee Kirchner.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “**“WE NEED EACH OTHER,’ SAYS URSULINE SISTER LEE KIRCHNER,**” YOU READ: “who volunteers at Centro’s monthly women’s meetings, offering reflections for the more than 100 women that gather there.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “**WHO VOLUNTEERS AT CENTRO’S MONTHLY WOMEN’S MEETINGS, OFFERING REFLECTIONS FOR THE MORE THAN 100 WOMEN THAT GATHER THERE,**” YOU READ: “That’s what we’re trying to do: build a community among ourselves.”

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WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “THAT’S WHAT WE’RE TRYING TO DO: BUILD A COMMUNITY AMONG OURSELVES,” YOU READ: “Katalina has attended the meetings for 3 years.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “KATALINA HAS ATTENDED THE MEETINGS FOR 3 YEARS,” YOU READ: “The community has supported her in learning English and inspired her to give back.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “THE COMMUNITY HAS SUPPORTED HER IN LEARNING ENGLISH AND INSPIRED HER TO GIVE BACK,” YOU READ: “She and other women volunteer at Centro Latino’s food distribution center.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “SHE AND OTHER WOMEN VOLUNTEER AT CENTRO LATINO’S FOOD DISTRIBUTION CENTER,” YOU READ: “Assist in their local parishes.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “ASSIST IN THEIR LOCAL PARISHES,” YOU READ: “And work with their peers in the women’s meetings.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “AND WORK WITH THEIR PEERS IN THE WOMEN’S MEETINGS,” YOU READ: “Shelby County is better because of the work these women do.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “SHELBY COUNTY IS BETTER BECAUSE OF THE WORK THESE WOMEN DO,” YOU READ: “‘When I first started leading these reflections, many women hardly said anything,’ Sister Lee recalls.”

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WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “WHEN I FIRST STARTED LEADING THESE REFLECTIONS, MANY WOMEN HARDLY SAID ANYTHING, SISTER LEE RECALLS,” YOU READ: “Now, so many have opened up with the most beautiful observations,”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “NOW, SO MANY HAVE OPENED UP WITH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OBSERVATIONS,” YOU READ: “... and with their desire to improve—not just themselves, but their community.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “AND WITH THEIR DESIRE TO IMPROVE—NOT JUST THEMSELVES, BUT THEIR COMMUNITY,” YOU READ: “For Centro Latino, this is the kind of work that has the most lasting impact.”

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, “FOR CENTRO LATINO, THIS IS THE KIND OF WORK THAT HAS THE MOST LASTING IMPACT,” YOU SAY “The End!”

MATERIALS

- 5 index cards per participant
- 1 marker per participant
- 1 piece of paper with the word “Solidarity” written on it as large as possible
- Roll of masking or painter’s tape

PREPARATION

- Write the word “Solidarity” on a piece of paper and tape it to a blank wall.
- Give each participant 5 index cards, a strip of masking or painter’s tape and a marker.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Ask participants to write one noun, adjective or adverb that describes solidarity on each card—ask them to write it as big as they can. Give them an example like “listening” or “mutuality.”
- Tell them that when they are finished writing, they should rip the tape into pieces, roll each piece and place it on the back of the index card. That way, they will be able to tape the card to the wall.
- Invite those who are finished to post their cards on the wall under the “Solidarity” sign, taping any duplicates on top of the previous cards.
- As more participants finish, invite them to come up in pairs to tape their cards, always putting duplicates on top of each other.

DISCUSSION

- When everyone has posted their cards, read them out loud and ask participants if they have any comments or questions about them.
- Ask if there are any ideas from the Centro Latino story that aren’t included that would help us understand solidarity.
- Ask if there are any ideas missing. As the leader, feel free to suggest other concepts you think should have been included.
- Ask if there is anything else they learned about the meaning of solidarity.



Photo by Karen Kiamauki for CRS

Lord of Easter's Promise,

*I live in faith of the Resurrection,
but such is the nature of my faith
that so much of me remains
entombed.*

Break open the tomb.

*Where I've buried my compassion,
break open the tomb.*

*Where I've buried my sense of mercy,
break open the tomb.*

*Where I've buried my humility,
break open the tomb.*

*Where I've buried my humanity,
break open the tomb.*

*Where I've buried my love for my
Heavenly Father, break open
the tomb.*

*Where I've buried my sense of joy,
break open the tomb.*

*Where I've buried my willingness
to forgive, break open the tomb.*

*Lord, in you I've found a Savior no
grave can withstand.*

*Help me to roll away this stone
And find the miracle of new life
That I may live more fully in your
saving grace.*

Amen