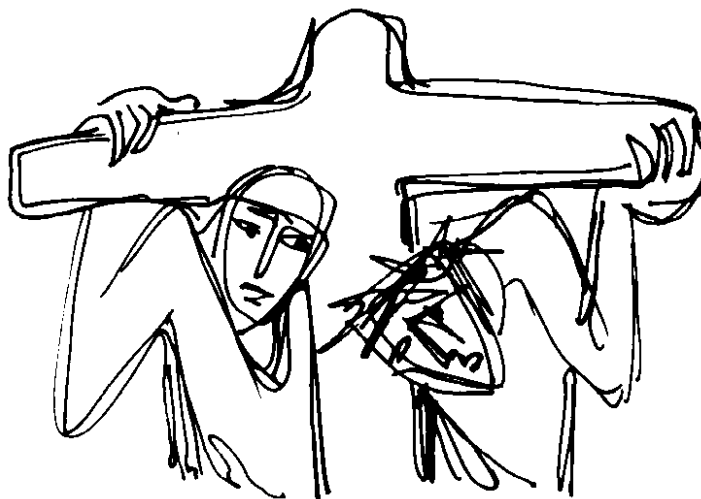


Catholic Character Theme

Solidarity



Related Virtues: Faith, Hope, Love, Justice, Fortitude

Descriptor

The language of our *story* speaks of **solidarity**. Solidarity is about standing together with a person or group of persons who are suffering. We belong to one another as a community, and if one member suffers, all of us are suffering. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to solidarity with all persons both near and far away. In Solidarity, we bear one another's burdens and defend one another's dignity as children of God. Solidarity is visible in our Catholic schools whenever people reach out to help those who suffer. The character of Catholic school communities speaks about **solidarity**.

Scripture Quotes

All Persons Created in God's Image

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1: 26-27

The Reward of Welcoming in Christ

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

Matt 10, 40-42

EOCCC: Our Language, Our Story 1.0, 2009.

Greatness in Service

Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matt 20, 24-28

The Greatest Commandment

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Matthew 22: 36-40

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10: 25-37

The Call to Love in Truth and Action

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

1John 3, 16-18

The Rich Man and Lazarus

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the

EOCCC: Our Language, Our Story 1.0, 2009.

angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime, you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.'

Luke 16, 19-26

The Judgement of the Nations

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people from one another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

...'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are my family, you did it to me.'

Matt 25, 31-36, 40

Solidarity With the Suffering and Greater Honour to the Lowly

[T]he members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

(1Cor 12, 22-27)

Faith Without Works is Dead

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

James 2: 14-17

Connection to Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations ***The Catholic Character Theme "Solidarity" relates to the following Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations:***

1. A Discerning Believer Formed in the Catholic Faith Community who

CGE1a -illustrates a basic understanding of the **saving story** of our Christian faith;

- CGE1d** -develops attitudes and values founded on Catholic **social teaching** and acts to promote social responsibility, human solidarity and the common good;
- CGE1e** -speaks the **language of life**... “recognizing that life is an unearned gift and that a person entrusted with life does not own it but that one is called to protect and cherish it.” (Witnesses to Faith)
- CGE1f** -seeks intimacy with God and celebrates **communion** with God, others and creation through prayer and worship;
- CGE1h** -respects the **faith traditions**, world religions and the life-journeys **of all people of good will**;
- CGE1i** -integrates faith with life;
- CGE1j** -recognizes that “sin, human weakness, conflict and forgiveness are part of the human journey” and that the cross, the ultimate sign of forgiveness is at the heart of **redemption**. (Witnesses to Faith)

2. An Effective Communicator who

- CGE2c** -presents information and ideas clearly and honestly and with sensitivity to others;
- CGE2e** -uses and integrates the Catholic faith tradition, in the critical analysis of the arts, media, technology and information systems to enhance the quality of life.

3. A Reflective and Creative Thinker who

- CGE3a** -recognizes there is more grace in our world than sin and that hope is essential in facing all challenges;
- CGE3b** -creates, adapts, evaluates new ideas in light of the common good;
- CGE3d** -makes decisions in light of gospel values with an informed moral conscience;
- CGE3f** -examines, evaluates and applies knowledge of interdependent systems (physical, political, ethical, socio-economic and ecological) for the development of a just and compassionate society.

4. A Self-Directed, Responsible, Life Long Learner who

- CGE4a** -demonstrates a confident and positive sense of self and respect for the dignity and welfare of others;
- CGE4c** -takes initiative and demonstrates Christian leadership;

5. A Collaborative Contributor who

- CGE5a** -works effectively as an interdependent team member;
- CGE5b** -thinks critically about the meaning and purpose of work;
- CGE5c** -develops one’s God-given potential and makes a meaningful contribution to society;
- CGE5d** -finds meaning, dignity, fulfillment and vocation in work which contributes to the common good;
- CGE5e** -respects the rights, responsibilities and contributions of self and others;
- CGE5f** -exercises Christian leadership in the achievement of individual and group goals;
- CGE5g** -achieves excellence, originality, and integrity in one’s own work and supports these qualities in the work of others;

6. A Caring Family Member who

- CGE6a** -relates to family members in a loving, compassionate and respectful manner;
- CGE6c** -values and honours the important role of the family in society;
- CGE6e** -ministers to the family, school, parish, and wider community through service.

7. A Responsible Citizen who

- CGE7a** -acts morally and legally as a person formed in Catholic traditions;
- CGE7b** -accepts accountability for one’s own actions;
- CGE7c** -seeks and grants forgiveness;
- CGE7d** -promotes the sacredness of life;

- CGE7e** -witnesses Catholic social teaching by promoting equality, democracy, and solidarity for a just, peaceful and compassionate society;
- CGE7f** -respects and affirms the diversity and interdependence of the world's peoples and cultures;
- CGE7g** -respects and understands the history, cultural heritage and pluralism of today's contemporary society;
- CGE7h** -exercises the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship;
- CGE7i** -respects the environment and uses resources wisely;
- CGE7j** -contributes to the common good.

Related Concepts

COMMUNION	HUMAN FAMILY	QUALITY OF LIFE
COMMUNITY	HUMAN RIGHTS	SERVICE
CONSENSUS	INCARNATION	SHARING
COMMON GOOD	INCLUSIVITY	SOCIAL OUTREACH
COOPERATION	INTERDEPENDENCE	UNDERSTANDING
COLLABORATION	JUSTICE	UNITY
DISTRIBUTION	LOVE OF NEIGHBOUR	
FRIENDSHIP	PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR	

Links to Online Resources

Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Human Solidarity"

<http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/p3s1c2a3.htm#III>

Outlines the Catholic Church's teaching on the subject of solidarity – in Scripture and through its long and rich Tradition.

Compendium of the Doctrine of the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church "The Principle of Solidarity"

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20060526_compendio-dott_soc_en.html#a.%20Meaning%20and%20value

Explains the Catechism's treatment of solidarity, with greater depth and reference to papal encyclicals, writings from Tradition and Scripture.

"Solidarity in the Human Family"

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20060526_compendio-dott_soc_en.html#Solidarity%20in%20the%20family

Continues with the above developments on the theme of solidarity as it relates to the human family.

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://www.cccb.ca/>

The CCCB website is a valuable resource for persons seeking to understand where the Canadian Catholic stands on social justice. See their Episcopal Commission for Social Affairs page at:

EOCCC: Our Language, Our Story 1.0, 2009.

<http://www.cccb.ca/site/content/category/28/92/1119/lang.eng>

Includes letters of praise and concern to prominent politicians and members of the business and international community. The 'Public Statements' section contains the Bishops' position statements on current issues such as aboriginal land claims, religious rights and the sanctity of life. Many of these relate to the theme of solidarity.

Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://www.occb.on.ca/>

The official web site of the OCCB contains extensive resources from the Catholic Bishops of Ontario as well as useful links to other Church and Catholic organizations' web sites. The Conference's jurisdiction over Ontario Catholic schools makes this site particularly relevant.

See Ontario Bishops' document *Celebrating Education for Justice and Peace* at:

<http://www.occb.on.ca/english/documents.php?f=celebrating.html> This document is addressed to high school students. It challenges them to work together in Christian hope to bring about significant positive change in the world.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

<http://www.devp.org>

Development and Peace is the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' international development agency. Catholic school involvement in D&P's education, Fall Action, Share Lent and ongoing relief campaigns can unite a Catholic school community in solidarity with other members of the global community who are most in need of our help. See also D&P's:

-Just Youth section at: <http://youth.devp.org/aframes.html>

-Tree of Catholic Social Teaching group exercise outline at:

<http://www.devp.org/devpme/documents/eng/pdf/D&PTreeOfCST.pdf>

Social Justice Links from Catholic Association of Religious & Family Life Educators of Ontario (CARFLEO)

<http://www.carfleo.org/linkssocialjustice.htm>

One of many resource links pages on the CARFLEO website (www.carfleo.org).

Anchor Concept: Solidarity

<http://www.eoccc.org/csfc/concepts/asolidarity.html>

This web page explores the concept of *Solidarity*, as a thematic organizing tool for developing lesson plans and units in Catholic school classrooms. It has a brief explanation of solidarity, related concepts and corresponding Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. This page has links to templates and resources for further developing Catholic school curriculum, school activities, staff development exercises, school year planning and school prayer. Part of EOCCC Catholic school curriculum and activity development resource CD: *Curriculum Support for Catholic Schools 2.0*.

Thompson–Nelson *Our World* Kindergarten Activity Charts

<http://www.nelson.com/ourworld/0176279237/documents/KCatholicValues.pdf>

This page contains Kindergarten lesson planning charts for use with Nelson's *Our World* series. They are geared to teaching young children about solidarity, stewardship and the dignity of the human person/sanctity of life, the common good, participation and

social responsibility. See Nelson's Companion Site Index Page for further details:
<http://www.nelson.com/ourworld/companion.html>

What Catholics Should Know About Solidarity

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/ac0607.asp>

A very helpful introduction to the meaning of solidarity for North Americans, with practical suggestions on how to live in globalized solidarity with persons suffering in other parts of the world.

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship. A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility. Theme: Solidarity – One Human Family

http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org/docs/lesson_plans/elementary_e.pdf

Ready-to-use classroom lesson on solidarity for junior and senior elementary grades (can be used with secondary students with minor modification). This lesson also has all the elements of a prayer service, and can be used this way as well with few changes.

Scarboro Missions Catholic Social Teaching Page

http://www.scarboromissions.ca/Justice_and_peace/catholic_social_teaching.php

Contains lots of helpful information on Solidarity and other elements of Catholic Social Teachings, as well as links to relevant Church documents and further resources.