

# Catholic Social Teaching: Praying the News

## Introduction

Catholic social teaching challenges us to stand in solidarity with people in need throughout the world. The word *solidarity* derives from the Latin word *sol*, which means *whole*. Solidarity asks us to see the human race as one whole human family, whatever our differences. Many teens have become global citizens through travel. This activity invites them to pray the news.

## Preparation

- Have newspapers of the day and magazines of the week available, one for each teen.
- Paper for writing notes.

## Activity

Direct your teens to pray the news by paging through and reading a newspaper of the day or news magazine of the week. Have them choose a story that draws their attention. Allow time to read the story through. Direct them to imagine themselves as a person who experienced the event in the story. Ask them to imagine what they would do, how they would feel, what they would need, what they would hope for.

Have teens talk in pairs about the person with whom each identifies. Then provide paper for each to write a letter to the person.

## Closing Prayer Experience

**LEADER:**

*Loving God, like the sun that rises on every person, you care about us all. We come together to remember our brothers and sisters from around the globe. I invite each of us now to pray in the character of the person in the news. Tell us who you are and pray for what will give you hope and healing.*

When all have finished, conclude:

*Loving God, you never forget any of us in need. May our prayers help us see action we can take to make sure our brothers and sisters around the globe have food, clothing, shelter, education, and health care. Amen.*