

Some Reflections on Our Call to Solidarity . . .



When you consider solidarity, consider the God who is eternal love becoming one of us—one with us. When you think of solidarity, think of Jesus the Nazarene, who took on the sufferings of all humanity—even to death on a cross. When you pray for solidarity, pray for the grace to give yourself freely for the sake of the other—pray for the grace to embrace the common good.

“[Solidarity] is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.” (John Paul II, [Sollicitudo Rei Socialis](#), [Italian](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Spanish](#) n. 38)

The virtue of solidarity is self-evident in the life and message of Jesus Christ:

. . . who is one with humanity even to the point of ‘death on a cross’ (Phil 2:8). In him it is always possible to recognize the living sign of that measureless and transcendent love of *God-with-us*, who takes on the infirmities of his people, walks with them, saves them and makes them one. In him and thanks to him, life in society too, despite all its contradictions and ambiguities, can be rediscovered as a place of life and hope, in that it is a sign of grace that is continuously offered to all and because it is an invitation to ever higher and more involved forms of sharing. (Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, [Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church](#), [Italian](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Spanish](#), n. 196)