

Solidarity

The United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) describes this principle of Catholic Social Teaching as:

Solidarity

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

“Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community. It means that the lives of all are prior to the appropriation of goods by a few. It also means combatting the structural causes of poverty, inequality, the lack of work, land and housing, the denial of social and labor rights. It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of money... Solidarity, understood in its most profound meaning, is a way of making history, and this is what popular movements are doing.” (Pope Francis, *On Fraternity and Social Friendship [Fratelli Tutti]*, no. 116)

The love of God in us is witnessed to by our willingness to lay down our lives for others as Christ did for us.

1 John 3:16-18

“Interdependence must be transformed into solidarity, based upon the principle that the goods of creation are meant for all. That which human industry produces through the processing of raw materials, with the contribution of work, must serve equally for the good of all.” (St. John Paul II, *On Social Concern [Sollicitudo rei Socialis]*, no. 39)



“To love someone is to desire that person’s good and to take effective steps to secure it. Besides the good of the individual, there is the good that is linked to living in society: the common good. It is the good of ‘all of us’, made up of individuals, families and intermediate groups who together constitute society. ... To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity.” (Pope Benedict XVI, *Charity in Truth [Caritas in Veritate]*, no. 7)

What can we do?

Prayer for Solidarity

Almighty and ever-living God,
empower your one human family
to join hands
on our journey of faith.
Send us your spirit of hope,
so that we may work
to alleviate human suffering
and foster charity and justice
in our world.
Amen



Secretariat of
Justice and Peace

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This prayer can be said as part of your daily prayer practice, with your family perhaps at meal time, or with any group you meet with during Junw.

Local Organizations

Many Hands for Haiti

The Work of Our Hands

Christian Opportunity
Center

The Well

Legacy Thrift Store



Refugee
Alliance of
Central Iowa

What is World Refugee Day?

June 20th is the internationally observed date the world recognizes refugees, the journeys they make to their new homes and all the contributions they bring with. This date was determined by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, and we are honored to have organized our local events for the past 13 years.

Discussion Guide

Solidarity

A Discussion Guide is available from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services. It Includes:

- Opening Prayer
- YouTube Video
- Scripture Passage for Reflection
- Sharing on Scripture
- Passages from Catholic Tradition for Reflection
- Discussion of Passages
- Call to Action
- Sending Forth

This and other resources can be found at:

<https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/cst-101-solidarity-discussion-guide-final.pdf>

Video on Solidarity

A video from the USCCB and CRF on this topic can be found on YouTube.

https://youtu.be/cteMjwOBPtw?si=YpjrRlRQ_OZK9OQa
https://youtu.be/cteMjwOBPtw?si=YpjrRlRQ_OZK9OQa

JUNE 20 2026 REFUGEE ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL IOWA PRESENTS

2026 DSM WORLD REFUGEE DAY

- ANNUAL WRD 5K FUN RUN/WALK*
- CULTURAL PERFORMANCES
- BOOK/ POETRY READINGS
- CHILDREN'S CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES
- FOOD SAMPLES FROM REFUGEE/ IMMIGRANT-OWNED RESTAURANTS

POLK CO RIVER PLACE - 2309 EUCLID - DSM
10AM-2PM

FREE DART ALL DAY

FACEBOOK: COM/WRDDSM/
INSTAGRAM: @DSMWDRD

*REGISTER FOR 5K/ EVENT INFO:

Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa

POLK COUNTY
DSM World Refugee Day