

Standing with Friends

Home Activity – Catholic Social Teaching

In our study of Catholic social teaching, we have heard the word “solidarity” quite a bit. But how do we learn to live a life of solidarity? How do we learn to stand with friends?

Jesus talked about this in Matthew 12:46-50 :

While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. Someone said to him, “Behold, your mother and your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to you.” But Jesus answered the one who was telling him and said, “Who is my mother and who are my brothers?” And stretching out his hand he said, “Behold my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

He was saying that now my family is a much bigger one, that all are my brothers and sisters, whether I have met them or not. I must treat them as such, too. Jesus taught about loving others and offering them kindness, mercy and forgiveness just as you would your own family.

1. How can our family stretch the boundaries and see all people as our brothers and sisters – as family?
2. How will that change us?
3. How will this behavior affect others?
4. How can we begin to see others as family at school? Work? Church?

As a family, write a short prayer to say each day for people in need of love, mercy, kindness and compassion, people you want to call your brothers and sisters.
